THE

MINUTES OF THE SYNOD

OF THE

Presbyterian Church of Canada,

AT ITS SESSIONS AT LONDON, C.W.,

JUNE 11–18, 1856.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE SYNOD.

TORONTO:

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1856.

OFFICERS OF SYNOD, 1856–7.

Rev. GEORGE CHEYNE, Saltfleet, Tapleyton, P. O., Moderator.
Rev. WILLIAM REID, A. M., Toronto, Clerk of Synod, and General Agent for the Schemes of the Church.
JOHN REDPATH, Esq., Montreal, Treasurer for Foreign Mission Fund.

CONVENERS OF COMMITTEES.

Home Mission Committee—Rev. W. Reid, Toronto.
Committee on State of Religion—Rev. D. Fraser, Montreal.
College Committee—Dr. Willis.
College Building Committee—Rev. W. Reid.
Widows' Fund—J. Fisher, Esq., Hamilton.
Agency Committee—Dr. Burns.
On Board of Publication, &c—Rev. D. Inglis, Hamilton.
On Registration of Marriages, &c—Rev. T. Lowry.
On Foreign Missions—Rev. D. Fraser, Montreal, and Rev. T. Lowry, Joint Conveners.
On Sabbath Observance—Rev. R. F. Burns, St. Catherines.
On Sabbath Schools—Rev. W. Gregg, Belleville.
On Statistics—Rev. S. C. Fraser, White Lake P. O.
On College Deed—J. Court, Esq., Montreal.
On Union with U. P. Church—Rev. R. Ure, Streetsville.
On Standing Orders—Rev. T. Lowry.

MEETING OF SYNOD.

FIRST SESSION.

At London, and within St. Andrew's Church there, the 11th day of June, 1856, the which day the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada met, and, after sermon by the Rev. Thomas Lowry, Moderator for the past year, from Isaiah, xl. chap. and 9th verse, was constituted for business. Sermon by Moderator.

The Synod Roll was made up and called, and the names of members in attendance were marked.

[*The names of Members in attendance are marked with an asterisk.*]

PRESBYTERY OF BROCKVILLE AND OTTAWA.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
William Smart		Without charge.
Robert Boyd, D. D.	Wm. Dyer	Prescott.
William Lochead		Osgoode & Gloucester.
James Geggie		Dalhousie.
*S. C. Fraser, A. M.	John Forrest	McNab and Horton.
Wm. J. McDowell	Joseph Clarke	South Gower, &c.
*Thomas Wardrope	Donald Kennedy	Ottawa.
John Corbett		Wakefield.
*Peter Gray	*Peter McLaren	Beckwith and Goulburn.
*James B. Duncan	*Thomas Nicol	Perth.
John L. Gourlay	John Nesbit	Aylmer and Nepean.
*James Smith, A. M.	*John Graham	Ramsay.
David Wardrope	William King	Bristol.
	A. Sherwood	Brockville.
	Andrew Irving	Pembroke.
	James McGowan	Edwardsburg.
	George McNish	Yonge.
	Joseph Hillis	Bellamyville and Merrickville.
	Gilbert Thomson	North Gower.
	William Loughs	Cumberland, &c.
	Peter Ewing	West Port.
	George Bryson	Ft. Coulonge & West Templeton.
	Wm. McGirr	Osgoode and Russell.

S. C. Fraser, *Pres. Clerk, White Lake P. O.*

PRESBYTERY OF MONTREAL—June, 1856.

William McAlister		Motis.
*William B. Clark	*James Gibb	Chalmers' Ch., Quebec.
*David Black	Alpheus Kimpton	St. Therese de Blainville
Thomas Henry		Lachute.
Daniel Gordon		Indian Lands, &c.

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William Lochead		Osgoode & Gloucester.
James Geggie		Dalhousie.
*S. C. Fraser, A. M.	John Forrest	McNab and Horton.
Wm. J. McDowell	Joseph Clarke	South Gower, &c.
*Thomas Wardrope	Donald Kennedy	Ottawa.
John Corbett		Wakefield.
*Peter Gray	*Peter McLaren	Beckwith and Goulburn.
*James B. Duncan	*Thomas Nicol	Perth.
John L. Gourlay	John Nesbit	Aylmer and Nepean.
*James Smith, A. M.	*John Graham	Ramsay.
David Wardrope	William King	Bristol.
	A. Sherwood	Brockville.
	Andrew Irving	Pembroke.
	James McGowan	Edwardsburg.
	George McNish	Yonge.
	Joseph Hillis	Bellamyville and Merrickville.
	Gilbert Thomson	North Gower.
	William Loughs	Cumberland, &c.
	Peter Ewing	West Port.
	George Bryson	Ft. Coulonge & Westmeath.
	Wm. McGirr	Osgoode and Russell.

S. C. Fraser, *Pres. Clerk, White Lake P. O.*

PRESBYTERY OF MONTREAL—June, 1856.

William McAlister		Metis.
*William B. Clark	*James Gibb	Chalmers' Ch., Quebec.
*David Black	Alpheus Kimpton	St. Therese de Blainville
Thomas Henry		Lachute.
Daniel Gordon		Indian Lands, &c.

PRESBYTERY OF MONTREAL.—*Continued.*

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
R. C. Swinton (Miss'y)	*Robert Hopkins	Richmond, &c.
John C. Quin		Osnabruck.
*Donald Fraser, A. M.	*John Redpath	Coté Street, Montreal...
*Alexander F. Kemp	*William Macbean	St. Gabriel St. do. ....
William Scott		St. Sylvester.
Ewen McLean		Winslow.
Duncan Cameron	*Donald Cattanach	Lochiel.
James McConechy		Leeds.
*Hugh Campbell	*James Court	Cornwall.
*John Anderson	John McDougall	Lancaster, &c.
*Robert McArthur	James Dryden	St. Louis de Gonzague, &c.
John Milne		English River.
*John Crombie		Inverness.
*Peter Currie		Vankleek Hill.

D. FRASER, *Pres, Clerk, Montreal.*

PRESBYTERY OF LONDON.

*Donald McKenzie	*William McKenzie	Zorra.
*Daniel Allan	William Broadly	North-easthope.
*Thomas McPherson	*Moses Douglass	Stratford.
*William Graham	*Hugh Craig	Egmondville.
*Robert Wallace	*Donald Ross	Ingersoll.
*Wm. R. Sutherland	*James Allan	Ekfrid and Mosa.
*Angus McColl	*Alex. Urquhart	Chatham.
*Lachlan McPherson	*Donald Fraser	Williams.
*William S. Ball	*Andrew Smith	Woodstock, Knox's Ch.
*John Scott	*William Clark	London.
*William King	Archibald Young	Buxton.
*John Ross	*Angus Gordon	Brucefield.
*Duncan McDiarmid	*George Gunn	Woodstock, Chalmers' Church.
*Duncan McMillan	*Angus McKay	Aldborough.
*William McLaren	James Bartlett	Amherstburgh.
*Andrew Tolmie	George Hart	Blandford.
*David Walker	*David Grey	Sarnia.
*William Doak		Stanley.
James McNaughton		Saugeen.
*James Ferguson	William White	Lobo.
*John Gauld		Moore.
	*Hugh Davidson	Thamesford.

REV. J. SCOTT, *Pres. Clerk, London.*

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.

*Mark Y. Stark, A. M.	*John Clark	Dundas.
John Bayne, D. D.	*James Cowan	Galt.
*George Smellie	*A. D. Ferrier	Fergus.
*George Cheyne	Andrew Lethem	Saltfleet and Binbrook.
*Alexander McLean		Cumminsville and Nairn Church.
*John McKinnon		Owen's Sound.
*John Alexander	*Stephen Wilson	Brantford.
*Duncan McRuar	*Douglass Lillico	Ayr.
*Samuel Young		Guelph.

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.—*Continued.*

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
*James Black	*Alex. Mitchell	Caledonia.
*Andrew J. McAuley		Nassagaweya.
*Robert Irvine	*J. P. Dickerman	Hamilton (Knox's Ch.)
*James Pirie		Niagara.
*David Inglis	*Maitland Young	Hamilton (McNab St. Church.)
Andrew Stevens		Paris.
Robert D. McKay		Wellesley.
*Robert F. Burns	*James Dougan	St. Catharines.
*John Gillespie	*Adam Alison	Blenheim,
*Alexander McLean	*Plummer Dewar	East Puslinch.
*William McIndoe	Hugh Thompson	Wellington Square and Waterdown.
*William Craigie	William Burt	Port Dover and Simcoe.
*James Middlemiss		Elora.

M. Y. STARK, *Presby. Clerk, Dundas.*

PRESBYTERY OF TORONTO.

*Robert Burns, D. D.	*Donald Elder	Knox's Church, Toronto.
*M. Willis, D. D., S.T.P.		
James Harris.		
*Thomas Lowry		West Gwillimbury.
*William Reid, A. M.		
*William Meldrum	*George Bannerman	Vaughan.
A. T. Holmes	*Samuel Wallace	Chinguacousy.
*Thomas Wightman	*W. D. Stark	York Mills.
*John McTavish	*John Gunn	Thorah and Eldon.
John McLachlan		Acton.
*G. P. Young.		
*James Nisbet	*John Barclay	Oakville.
*Robert Ure	*Isaac Weylie	Streetsville.
*John Gray	Thomas Dallas	Orillia and Oro.
*Jos. Alexander, A. M.		Union and Norval.
James Adams		King.
Robert McKenzie		Barrie and Innisfil.
*John Laing	*Andrew Telfer	Scarboro'.
John Black		Red River.
Vacant	*John McMurrich	Cooke's Ch. Toronto.
		Markham.
		Brock and Reach.
	*William Heron	Whitby.
		Caledon West and Erin.

THOMAS WIGHTMAN, *Presb. Clerk, York Mills.*

PRESBYTERY OF COBOURG.

James Douglass		South Cavan.
*Donald McLeod	*Walter Riddel	Cobourg.
*John M. Roger	*Robert Turnbull	Peterboro'.
*Wm. J. McKenzie	*James Masson	Baltimore, &c.
*John W. Smith	*Walter Rutherford	Grafton and Colborne.
*John Smith	*Alex.' Beith	Darlington.
Francis Andrews		Otonabee.
*William Blain	Robert Thomson	Springville.
*James Bowie	Kenneth Kempt	Norwood.
*Jas. A. Thomson	Andrew Jeffrey	Trenton.
Robert Boag		Cartwright, &c.

JAMES BOWIE, *Presb. Clerk, Norwood.*

PRESBYTERY OF KINGSTON.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
Henry Gordon.....	.....	.....Gananoque.
*Wm. Gregg	*Dr. Holden	.....Belleville.
*Andrew Wilson.....	James Gibson	.....Kingston.
*D. B. Pearce	*Robert Matthews	do.
*Thos. S. Chambers.....	.....	.....Picton.

WILLIAM GREGG, *Presb. Clerk.*

Election of Moderator.

The Synod then proceeded to elect a Moderator, when Mr. George Cheyne, of Saltfleet and Binbrook, was unanimously elected, and took the chair.

Thanks to late Moderator for his Sermon.

On motion made and seconded, it was resolved, that the thanks of the Synod be given to the late Moderator for his excellent sermon, and that he be requested to furnish the manuscript for publication.

The thanks of the Synod were accordingly presented to Mr. Lowry by the Moderator.

Committee on Bills and Overtures.

The following Committee on Bills and Overtures was appointed, viz:—the Moderator, and Clerk of Synod, Messrs. S. C. Fraser, T. Wardrope, A. F. Kemp, Donald Fraser, J. Anderson, D. McKenzie, J. Scott, W. McLaren, W. S. Ball, J. Ross, M. Y. Stark, D. McRuar, D. Inglis, R. Irvine, Dr. Burns, Dr. Willis, Professor Young, Messrs. Lowry, J. M. Roger, D. McLeod, J. Bowie, A. Wilson, T. S. Chambers, Ministers, and Messrs. Court, McBean, W. Clark, D. Ross, Mitchell, A. D. Ferrier, W. Stark, Isaac Weylie, R. Turnbull, Elders.

The Committee was instructed to meet to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock for receiving papers and arranging business.

The Synod granted leave to Presbyteries to meet in London during the present session of Synod for the transaction of any competent business.

The Synod adjourned to meet to-morrow at 10 o'clok, A. M., and the Diet was closed with prayer.

SECOND SESSION.

THURSDAY, *June 12th*, 10 *o'clock, A. M*

The Synod was again constituted.

Devotional Exercises.

The first part of the Diet was spent in devotional exercises, which were conducted by the Moderator, Dr. Willis, Mr. McLaren, and Mr. McLeod.

Thereafter the minutes of last Diet were read and sustained.

The Committee on Bills and Overtures presented their first report, which was received and sustained.

The Synod then proceeded to appoint the following Committees, viz:—

Committee on Statistics.

On Statistics.—Mr. S. C. Fraser, Mr. Wightman, and Mr. A. Mitchell. Mr. Fraser, Convener.

Committee on Public Accounts.

On Public Accounts.—Mr. Gregg, Mr. Court, and Mr. Ferrier, Mr. Gregg, Convener.

Committees on Synod & Presbytery Records.

On the Synod Records..—Messrs. Smellie, D. Fraser, King, and A. Smith.

On the Record of the Presbytery of Brockville and Ottawa.—Messrs. Stark, Tolmie, and Angus McKay.

On the Record of the Presbytery of Montreal.—Messrs. S. Young, Thomas McPherson, and W. Heron.

On the Record of the Presbytery of London.—Messrs. Burns, P. Gray, and A. Beith.

On the Record of the Presbytery of Hamilton.—Messrs. Laing, Walker, and Moses Douglas.

On the Record of the Presbytery of Toronto.—Messrs. J. Smith, McColl, and R. Turnbull.

On the Record of the Presbytery of Cobourg.—Messrs. D. McKenzie, John Alexander, and D. Gray.

On the Record of the Presbytery of Kingston.—Messrs. McMillan, H. Campbell, and George Gunn.

The first named member in each Committee being Convener.

Overture on subject of Slavery.

The Synod then took up an Overture from the Presbytery of London, of the following tenor, viz:—

Whereas applications are occasionally made for admission to this body of Ministers from Churches in the United States, that are more or less implicated in the sin of slavery; and whereas this Synod has, in the years 1851 and 1853, passed resolutions on the subject of slavery, which it is desirable to have fully carried out, especially in the admission into our Church of Ministers from the United States, it is respectfully overtured by the Presbytery of London to the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, that Presbyteries be enjoined particularly to examine applicants for admission on the subject of slavery, and to be satisfied, before receiving them, that their views accord with those of the Synod as expressed in said resolutions.

Mr. McPherson was heard in support of the Overture, and after discussion, the following resolution, moved by Rev. S. C. Fraser, seconded by Rev. Dr. Willis, was adopted, viz:—

The Synod approve of the overture, and in terms of its suggestions instruct Presbyteries, in dealing with applicants for admission into the Ministry of our Church from the United States, to satisfy themselves respecting the views of such applicants on the resolutions of 1853 anent slavery.

The Synod adjourned to meet at half-past three o'clock, P. M., and the Diet was closed with prayer.

THIRD SESSION.

SAME DAY, *half-past three, P. M.*

The Synod again met and was constituted.

The minutes of last Diet were read and sustained.

Memorial from Rev. J. McMurray.

The Synod took up a memorial from the Rev. J. McMurray, formerly Minister of Brockville, praying to be recognised as still a member of the Presbytery of Brockville, when the following resolution was adopted, viz :—

The Synod, having taken into consideration the petition of the Rev. J. McMurray, declare that the admission of Ministers without charge to a seat in Presbytery, is not in harmony with the constitution of this Church; and, therefore, they do not deem it proper to grant the prayer of the petition.

The Synod took up a reference from the Presbytery of Toronto with reference to the status of the Rev. James Rogers, at present residing within the bounds of the Presbytery, and labouring as a Missionary.

The Synod sustained the reference, and *quoad ultra* agreed to apply to this case the deliverance given in the case of Mr. McMurray.

College Report.

The Synod then called for the Report of the College Committee. The same was given in by Dr. Willis, Convener, and was read. The Synod, after lengthened deliberation on the Report, adopted the following resolutions, viz :—

Resolutions adopted.

1. That the College Committee be instructed to adopt measures for bringing the Bursary Fnnd before the Ministers and congregations of the Church, with the view of sustaining it, as a means of assisting young men in their preparation for the work of the Ministry.

2. That, as regards the tutorship, things remain as heretofore, Mr. Smith being retained for another year as head of the Boarding House, and as tutor; the Committee being empowered to make any other arrangement, should this not be carried into effect.

3. That it shall be the duty of the College Committee to correspond with Presbyteries respecting their mode of superintending students, with the view of securing, as far as possible, the uniform observance throughout the Church of the Synod's arrangements on this head; to obtain from Presbyteries an annual report relative to the students under their inspection, and present a digest of these annually to the Synod; to attend the opening and closing of the Hall, and to receive, and lay before the Synod an annual report regarding the state of the Hall, including the report of the Professors of the means which they have taken to promote the improvement of the students under their inspection. In case, likewise, of the College Committee being satisfied, from the reports of the Professors or from other sources, that it would be unadvisable for a young man to continue to prosecute his studies with a view to the ministry, it shall be the duty of the Committee to recommend such student to give up his Theological studies, and to betake himself to some other vocation.

4. That the Synod appove of the suggestions in the report, that, as a general rule, students at College should not be required to go out as catechists, till they have passed the first year of their Divinity course, leaving it to the College Committee to decide on any exceptional calls on their service, and that, during the session, no student should be required to do public Sabbath duty more than on six Sabbaths, and that in this case, also, any extra demands should be in all cases submitted to the approval of the Professors.

5. That the Synod, in accordance with the recommendation of the Committee, change the time of the opening of the College session from 1st November to 1st October, and the time of closing from 1st May to 1st April.

The College Committee was appointed as follows :—

College Committee.

From the Presbytery of Toronto, Dr. Willis, Professor Young, Mr. Reid, Dr. Burns, Messrs. Lowry, Ure, McTavish, Ministers; and Messrs. McMurrich, Shaw, and Spreuil. From Presbytery of Hamilton, Messrs. Irvine, Inglis, McRuar, Young, Alexander, Ministers; and Messrs. Dickerman, Hopkins, Mitchell, and M. Young, Elders. From Presbytery of London, Messrs. Scott, Ross, McKenzie, McLaren, Ball, Ministers; and Messrs. Clark, Smith, Gunn, and Douglas, Elders. From Presbytery of Cobourg, Messrs. McLeod, Roger, and John Smith, Ministers; and Messrs. Riddell and Rutherford, Elders. From the Presbytery of Kingston, Messrs. Gregg, Wilson, and Pearce, Ministers; and Dr. Holden, and Mr. Matthews, Elders. From the Presbytery of Brockville and Ottawa, Messrs. Wardrope, Duncan, Smith, and Dr. Boyd, Ministers; and Messrs. McLaren, Nicol, and Sherwood, Elders. And from the Presbytery of Montreal, Messrs. Clark, Fraser, Kemp, and Anderson, Ministers; and Messrs. Court, Redpath, and McBean, Elders. Dr. Willis, Convener.

The Synod adjourned to meet again at half-past six o'clock, and the Diet was closed with prayer.

FOURTH SESSION.

SAME DAY, *half-past* 6 *P. M.*

The Synod was again constituted.

The minutes of last Diet were read and sustained.

Report of Committee on Foreign Missions.

The Synod called for the report of the Committee on Foreign Missions. The report was given in by Rev. D. Fraser. After mature deliberation it was resolved :—

Resolutions of Synod.

1. That the Synod receive the report, and from the information contained therein, feel themselves called upon to carry into effect the resolutions of the two preceding Synods, by the establishment of a Foreign Mission.

2. That the Province of Bengal be the sphere of the proposed mission.

3. That the Synod solemnly invite and call the Rev. G. Stevenson, of Tullibody, Scotland, and the Rev. John Laing, of Scarboro, to go to this work, promising them due support and sympathy therein.

Prayer was offered up for the divine blessing on the work thus undertaken, and the brethren thus solemnly called to engage in it.

The Synod instructed the Presbytery of Toronto to take the usual steps for loosing Mr. Laing from his charge; and, under a deep feeling of sympathy for the congregation of Scarboro', instructed the Home Mission Committee to co-operate with the Presbytery of Toronto in affording suitable supply, until they shall be again provided with a Pastor. The Synod further authorized the Foreign Mission Committee to take the necessary steps for having Mr. Stevenson's appointment put into his hands, and laid before the Presbytery of which he is a member, with the view of his being released from his Pastoral charge.

Foreign Mission Committee.

The Foreign Mission Committee was appointed as follows, viz:—Mr. D. Fraser, Mr. W. B. Clark, Mr. Kemp, Mr. Wardrope, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Pearce, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Reid, Mr. Irvine, Mr. Inglis, Mr. Stark, Mr. Scott, Mr. Ball, Mr. Lowry, Mr. McRuar, Dr. Burns, Ministers; and Messrs. Redpath, Court, Clark, Dickerman, Elder, Kennedy, Cattanach, Turnbull, Ross, Elders. Messrs. Fraser and Lowry, Joint Conveners.

The Synod then adjourned, and the Diet was closed with prayer.

FIFTH SESSION.

FRIDAY, 13*th June*, *half-past* 9, *A. M.*

The Synod again met and was constituted.

The minutes of last Diet were read and sustained.

Report from Committee on Bills & Overtures

A report was received from the Committee on Bills and Overtures, with various papers, and recommendations with reference to the arrangement of business. The Report was sustained.

The Synod proceeded to take up applications from Presbyteries for leave to receive Ministers from other Churches, who have applied during the year to be admitted, and also applications from Presbyteries for leave to take Students on trials for license.

Ministers to be received.

Leave was granted to the Presbytery of Toronto to receive Rev. A. C. Geikie as a Minister of this Church; also to the Presbytery of Hamilton, to receive Rev. T. Hodgskin, and Rev. J. Irvine; also to the Presbytery of Cobourg to receive Rev. Mr. Snell.

Students to be taken on trial for license.

Leave was granted to the Presbytery of Toronto, to take on trials for license, Mr. John Murray and Mr. John McKay; to the Presbytery of Brockille and Ottawa, to take on trials Mr. Wm. Forrest, and Mr. John McRobie; to the Presbytery of Montreal, to take on trials for license, Mr. John Straith, and Mr. A. Young; to the Presbytery of Hamilton, to take on trials, Mr. George Cuthbertson, and Mr. John McMillan; and to the Presbytery of London, to take on trials for license, Mr. W. T. McMullen.

Next Meeting of Synod.

The Synod unanimously agreed that the next ordinary meeting of Synod should be held at Kingston, and within Chalmers' Church there, on the 2nd Tuesday of June, 1857, at 7 o'clock, P. M.

Ministers appointed to preach on Sabbath.

The Synod appointed Mr. Kemp to preach in St. Andrew's Church on Sabbath morning, and Mr. Duncan in the evening, and Mr. McTavish to preach in the Gaelic Church in the forenoon.

Dr. Burns' complaint against Presbytery of Toronto.

The Synod then took up a complaint of Dr. Burns, against a decision of the Presbytery of Toronto, on the occasion of the Presbyterial visitation of the congregation of Knox's Church, on 5th December, 1855. Parties were called, when Dr. Burns appeared for himself, and Messrs. Lowry, McTavish, Ure, and Wightman, for the Presbytery of Toronto. The papers in the case having been read, Dr. Burns was heard as complainant.

The hour of adjournment having come, the Diet was closed with prayer.

SIXTH SESSION.

THE SAME DAY, *half-past* 3, *P. M.*

The Synod was again constituted.

The minutes of last Diet was read and sustained.

The Synod resumed consideration of the complaint of Dr. Burns.

Dr. Burns finishes his pleading.

Dr. Burns having finished his pleading as complainant, Messrs. Lowry, McTavish and Ure, were heard for the Presbytery, and Dr. Burns was then heard in reply. Parties were then removed.

Messrs. Lowry, McTavish & Ure heard for Presb'y

Parties removed.

The Synod adjourned until seven o'clock, and the Diet was closed with prayer.

SEVENTH SESSION.

THE SAME DAY, 7 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Synod was again constituted.

The minutes of last Diet were read and sustained.

The Synod resumed consideration of the complaint of Dr. Burns.

Motion by Mr. Fraser.

It was moved by Mr. Fraser, seconded by Mr. McPherson:—

The Synod having heard papers and pleadings in the case, sustain the dissent and complaint, in so far as regards the sisting of Dr. Burns at the bar of the Presbytery, and reverse the decision of the Lower Court on that point—inasmuch as the placing of a Minister at the bar, is of the nature of a penal process, and therefore not competent to the Presbytery in such a case. Nevertheless, inasmuch as the Synod learns that no unfair restraint was laid on the complainant's liberty of speech—that he was refused his seat as a member of Presbytery, only when a finding affecting his own character was being arrived at,—and that no substantial violation of justice was committed in the manner in which the visitation

was conducted—find that there is nothing in the case, so far as it has been submitted to the Synod, which ought to vitiate the procedure of the Presbytery--and this especially, as the procedure itself comes under the review of this Synod by reference from the Presbytery of Toronto.

Motion by Mr Smellie.

Moved in amendment by Mr. Smellie, seconded by Mr. Irvine :—

That the Synod having heard the parties in the case, find that nothing inconsistent with justice, and the practice of the Church, has been done by the Presbytery, in the mode in which they have conducted the visitation of the congregation of Knox's Church, when refusing to Dr. Burns a right to deliberate and vote in the investigation of a case in which he was personally interested; and therefore dismiss the complaint, and sustain the procedure of Presbytery.

Mr. Smellie's motion carried.

The roll was called, and the votes marked, when 36 voted for the motion, and 51 for the amendment, which was accordingly declared to be carried. Parties having been called, the deliverance of Synod was read.

Mr. Kemp dissented in his own name, and in the name of all others who might adhere.

Reference from Presbytery of Toronto in regard to Knox's congregation.

The Synod then proceeded to take up a reference from the Presbytery of Toronto, in regard to the state of Knox's congregation, Toronto.

The papers in the case and various other documents were read.

It was moved by Mr. Redpath, seconded by Mr. Inglis, and unanimously agreed :—

That the Synod, having taken into consideration the reference from the Presbytery of Toronto, in the case of Knox's Church, sustain the reference, and appoint a Committee to confer with parties interested, who are present, with a view to ascertain the most advisable method of procedure in this case—and to report to the Synod at an early meeting. The Committee to consist of Messrs. Clark, D. Fraser, McLeod, Roger, Irvine, Inglis, Smellie, MacKenzie, Scott, Ross, McLean of Cumminsville, T. McPherson, Wardrope, Ministers, and Messrs. Redpath, Court, Cattanach, Beith, Ferrier, Turnbull, Clark, Smith, Cowan, Dickerman, and Hopkins, Elders. Mr. Redpath, Convener.

Committee appointed.

The Synod thereafter adjourned and the Diet was closed with prayer.

EIGHT SESSION.

SATURDAY, 14*th June*, 1856, *half-past* 9, *A. M.*

The Synod again met and was constituted.

The minutes of last Diet were read and sustained.

Returns from Presbyteries anent Board of Examination.

The Synod called for returns from Presbyteries anent the overture sent down on the subject of the examination of Students. The same were given in and read. It appeared that a majority of Presbyteries disapprove of the proposed Board of Examination. The overture for the appointment of such a Board was accordingly rejected.

Committee to draw up regulations in regard to examination of students.

The Synod appointed the following Committee to draw up regulations in regard to the examination of Students by Presbyteries, and to report at a subsequent Diet, viz:—Mr. McLaren, Professor Young, Dr. Willis, Mr. S. C. Fraser, Mr. McRuar, Mr. McLeod, Mr. McTavish, Mr. Clark, and Mr. Gregg. Dr. Willis, Convener.

Report of Committee on case of Knox's Church, Toronto.

The Committee named yesterday to consider the case of Knox's Church, Toronto, presented a report to the Synod, recommending the withdrawal of all papers and matters in the case still undecided, the appointment of Dr. Burns as Professor of Church History in Knox's College, and that the Presbytery should arrange with the Congregation and Trustees for having the Constitution of Knox's Church modified, and brought into conformity with the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church of Canada. The following was the decision of the Synod, in regard to this report, viz :—

The Synod having received the report, remit to the College Committee that part of it which bears on the erection of a new chair of Theology, and the appointment of an additional Professor, to report at a future Diet.

Report of Committee on College Buildings.

The Synod called for the report of the Committee on College Buildings. The same was presented by Mr. Reid.

On motion made and seconded, it was agreed, to receive and approve the report generally, and to return thanks of the Synod to the Committee, and especially to Mr. Reid, for the diligence and zeal which had been manifested in the matter of the purchase of buildings for College purposes.

The Synod appointed Messrs. Court, McMurrich, Cattanach, Ferrier, Mitchell, with Messrs. Kemp, Laing, Gregg, D. Fraser, W. McLaren, and Dr. Willis, to consider the matter of the Deed, and to report at a future Diet.

The Synod then adjourned to meet on Monday at half-past nine o'clock, A. M., and the Diet was closed with prayer.

NINTH SESSION.

MONDAY, 16*th June*, *half-past* 9, *A. M.*

The Synod again met and was constituted.

The minutes of last Diet were read and sustained.

Interim Report on Statistics.

The Committee on Statistics gave in an interim Report. The Synod sustained the report, and remitted the matter to the Committee to mature a fuller report, to be laid before the Synod at a future Diet.

Report of Committee on Public Accounts.

The Committee on Public Accounts reported that they had examined the accounts of the various schemes of the Church, and found them correct. The Synod sustained the report.

Report of Agency Committee presented.

The Agency Committee presented their Report. The Synod agreed to sustain the report, and in consideration of the increase in the expense of living, and the growing amount of labour, agreed to add fifty pounds per annum to the Agent's salary, the increase to apply to the past year. The Agency Committee was appointed as follows, viz:—Dr. Burns, Messrs. Lowry, Ure, Wightman, McTavish, McLeod, Gregg, Irvine, and Inglis, Ministers, and Messrs. McMurrich, Shaw, Dickerman, Matthews, and Ferrier, Elders. Dr. Burns, Convener.

Reference from Presbytery of Brockville & Ottawa on Organ.

The Synod then took up a reference from the Presbytery of Brockville and Ottawa, on the subject of the introduction of an organ into the Church at Brockville. Various other papers connected with the matter were read. The following motion was unanimously agreed to, viz:—sustain the reference; direct the attention of the Presbytery of Brockville and Ottawa to the deliverance of last year, to which the Synod still adheres, and remit to the Presbytery to deal, in the circumstances, tenderly and judiciously with the Session and congregation of the Brockville congregation.

Report of Committee on Registration of Births, &c.

The Committee on the Registration of Births, Marriages, &c., presented a report to the effect, that according to the instructions of the Synod, petitions on the subject had been presented to the Provincial Legislature; but no measure had been introduced into Parliament. The Synod sustained the report, and re-appointed the Committee, instructing them to watch over the matter. The Committee is as follows:—The Moderator, Mr. Lowry, Dr. Burns, Professor Young, Messrs. Irvine and Reid, Ministers; and Messrs. McMurrich and Shaw, Elders. Mr. Lowry, Convener.

Trenton transferred to Presbytery of Kingston.

The Synod, on application from the Presbyteries of Cobourg and Kingston—transferred Trenton from the Presbytery of Cobourg to that of Kingston—and ordered the name of Mr. Thomson to be taken from the roll of the Presbytery of Cobourg, and added to the roll of the Presbytery of Kingston.

Overture on Barrier Act.

The Synod then proceeded to take up the following overture from the Presbytery of Montreal, anent a Barrier Act.

Whereas it is of importance that all laws proposed, regarding matters of doctrine, discipline, Government, or Worship, should, before they are finally enacted, receive the patient and prayerful consideration of the Church: and

Whereas it is manifestly impossible that such consideration can be given during the Session of one meeting of Synod; It is therefore humbly overtured to the very Reverend the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, by the Presbytery of Montreal.

1. That every Overture requiring an innovation to be made in the Constitution of the Church, in matters of Doctrine, Discipline, Government, or Worship, sent up to the Synod, shall, before it be passed into a standing Law, first be sent down to all the Presbyteries of the Church for their approbation; that such approbation be given by each Presbytery at an ordinary meeting thereof; that notice shall be given at the meeting of Presbytery immediately preceding that such overture is to be considered at the meeting next following; and that the decision of Presbyteries be recorded in the Minutes, and an extract of the same be sent to the Clerk of Synod before its next meeting.

2. That the Synod if it see cause, may, by a majority of two-thirds of those present, pass such Overture into an Interim Act, which shall possess the force of a Law, aye and until the Presbyteries have, as herein required, expressed their judgment upon it.
3. When a majority of Presbyteries have, as herein required, expressed their approbation, the Synod may pass such Overture into a standing Law of the Church.
4. That when a majority of the Presbyteries have expressed disapprobation, then the Synod shall reject such Overture, or again remit to Presbyteries.

On motion made and seconded, it was agreed that the Synod approve of the Overture generally, and pass it as an *interim* Act, and remit it as an Overture for the consideration of the Presbyteries.

Memorial on subject of Marriage between Brothers & Sisters-in-law.

The Synod then took up a memorial from the Presbytery of Cobourg, with reference to the subject of Marriages between Brothers and Sisters-in-law. The following deliverance was adopted by the Synod, viz:—The Synod having no doubtful opinion, as to the conformity with Sacred Scripture, of the principles laid down in our Church standards, on the Law of Marriage, and especially touching the degrees of affinity, within which Marriage is forbidden by the Divine Law, enjoin on Presbyteries to carry out those recognized principles, as a rule of guidance in dealing with practical questions of Church-fellowship in this particular.

The Synod adjourned to meet at half-past three, P. M., and the Diet was then closed with prayer.

TENTH SESSION.

THE SAME DAY, *half-past* 3, *P. M.*

The Synod was again constituted.

The minutes of last Diet were read and sustained.

Overture anent Separate Schools.

The subject of Separate Schools was brought before the Synod, by an Overture from the Presbytery of Cobourg. The following deliverance moved by the Rev. S. C. Fraser, seconded by Mr. Mitchell was unanimously agreed to:—

The Synod having considered the Overture against Separate Schools, agreed to approve the same, and express the strong views which they entertain adverse to the continuance of such Institutions. Further, the Synod agree to petition the Legislature against the Separate Schools, and to recommend to their Congregations throughout the bounds to take similar action. Mr. McPherson, Mr. Smith, Mr. Ferrier, and Mr. Cowan, were appointed a Committee to draft a petition on the subject.

On motion was made and seconded it was agreed

Committee on Standing Orders.

That a Committee be appointed to draw up, before next meeting of Synod, a body of standing orders for the guidance of this house in the transaction of business.

The Committee was appointed as follows, viz:—Messrs. Lowry, McTavish, Smellie, Reid, Gregg, and Kemp. Mr. Lowry Convener.

Deeding of College Property.

Mr. Court presented a report from the Committee appointed to consider the matter of deeding the College Property. On motion made and seconded, it was agreed:

That the report be sustained, so far as relates to the temporary conveyance of the College Property to Messrs. Reid, Jeffrey, Redpath, Ferrier, and McConkey, for such purposes as the Synod shall hereafter determine, and that further consideration of the report be adjourned till Tuesday afternoon.

Report on Synod Records.

The Committee appointed to examine the Synod Records gave in a report to the effect that said Records were kept in a careful and correct manner. The Report was sustained, and the Moderator was authorized to attest the Records accordingly.

Reports on Presbytery Records.

Reports were presented by the Committees appointed to examine the Records of the several Presbyteries. These were severally sustained and the Records ordered to be attested in terms of the Reports.

The Synod then agreed to adjourn, and the Diet was closed with prayer.

ELEVENTH SESSION.

THE SAME DAY, 7 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Synod was again constituted.

The minutes of last Sederunt were read and sustained.

Report of Committee on Sabbath Schools.

The Synod called for the Report of the Committee on Sabbath Schools. The same was given in by Mr. Gregg, Convener. It was agreed to sustain the report and re-appoint the Committee with the addition of Mr. Burns of St. Catherines, instructing them to prepare and issue a second series of Sabbath School lessons.

Report of Home Mission Committee.

The Report of the Home Mission Committee was then called for. The same was given in by Mr. Reid, Convener. From the Report, it appeared that throughout the various Presbyteries there were fifty-six congregations, and thirty-three Stations requiring supply. At the last meeting of the Home Mission Committee, 46 Missionaries were distributed among the several Presbyteries, being 16 Preachers, and 30 Students.

On motion made and seconded, it was agreed—

That the Report be received and approved, and that the Synod feels itself called upon to express gratitude to Almighty God, for the large measure of success which he has been pleased to vouchsafe to the Home Missionary operations of this Church, and to resolve, in humility and prayerfulness, on continued endeavours to provide for the spiritual destitution of the land. The Synod farther approve generally of the

suggestions contained in the Report, and in accordance with these, recommend, that Presbyteries should take steps to have themselves duly represented, by paying the expenses of those members whom they may appoint to attend the meetings of the Committee, for the distribution of Missionaries; also that Presbyteries should increase the allowance to be paid to Students, while engaged during the summer months in Missionary labors, to £30, and take steps for seeing that this shall be fully and promptly paid.

Red River Mission.

A special Report was given in with reference to the Red River Mission. It was agreed to receive and sustain the Report, and to instruct the Home Mission Committee to look out for a Minister to relieve Mr. Black for one year or longer, if he is still desirous of visiting Canada.

Buxton Mission

Mr. King gave in a Report on the state of the Buxton Mission. It was agreed that the Report be received and sustained, and that the Synod express its gratitude to God for the success which has crowned the Buxton Mission. The Synod ordered the Report to be printed in the pages of the *Record*.

The Synod further strongly recommended this object to the liberal support of the Congregations of the Church.

The Home Mission Committee was re-appointed as follows, viz:—Messrs. Reid Ure, Wightman, Nesbit, Gray, Stark, McRuar, R. F. Burns, Irvine, Inglis, Black, Scott, McDiarmid, Ball, Tolmie, W. J. McKenzie, McLeod, J. W. Smith, Wilson, Pearce, Chambers, S. C. Fraser, James Smith, P. Gray, D. Fraser, Kemp, Currie and Anderson, Ministers; and Messrs. Telfer, Bannerman, Wallace, Wilson, Thomson, Dougan, McKenzie, Ross, Gordon, Keith, Turnbull, Holden, Matthews, Graham, Nicol, Cattanach, Court, McBean, and Ross, Elders. Mr. Reid, Convener.

Report of Committee on State of Religion.

The Synod then called for the Report of the Committee on the state of Religion. The same was given in, and read by Mr D. Fraser. On motion made and seconded, it was resolved to receive and sustain the Report, and adopt the recommendations, and re-appoint the Committee as follows, viz:—Dr. Burns. Dr. Willis, Messrs. McLeod, D. Fraser, Gregg, John Gray, Inglis, Ministers; Messrs. McMurrich, Court, Cattanach, Clark, Elders. Mr. Fraser, Convener. The following Ministers were appointed Corresponding members in the various Presbyteries, viz.:—for Presbytery of Montreal, Mr. Crombie; for Presbytery of Brockville and Ottawa, Mr. T. Wardrope; for the Presbytery of Kingston, Mr. Pearce; ; for Presbytery of Cobourg, Mr. McKenzie; for Presbytery of Toronto, Mr. McTavish; for Presbytery of Hamilton, Mr. R. F. Burns; and the Presbytery of London, Mr. D. Walker, of Port Sarnia.

The Synod then adjourned, and the Diet was closed with prayer.

TWELFTH SESSION.

TUESDAY, *17th June, half-past* 9, *A. M.*

The Synod again met and was constituted.

The Minutes of last Sederunt were read and sustained.

Report of Committee on Book of Discipline.

On Tuesday morning the Synod called for the Report of the Committee on the Book of Discipline. The same was given in by Mr. Gregg, Convener, and read. There were read also, Reports from the several Presbyteries on the draft which had been published in the *Record*.

On motion made and seconded, it was unanimously

Resolved—That the thanks of the Synod be given to the Committee; but that the Synod do not deem it expedient to sanction any manual; but that a judicial Committee of Synod be appointed, consisting of Messrs Gregg, Smellie, Reid, and Kemp, Ministers; and Messrs. Court, and Ferrier Elders, to whom the whole matter is referred.

Establishment of 3rd Theological Chair in Knox's College.

The College Committee presented a Report on the subject of the establishment of a new Chair in Knox's College. Whereupon it was moved by Mr. D. Walker, seconded by Mr. Smellie, That the report be received and sustained, and in harmony with its recommendations the Synod agree—

1. That a third Theological chair be established in Knox's College.
2. That Professor Young be loosed from the chair of Evidences, and appointed to the chair of Exegetical Theology, and that the third Professor have charge of the Departments of Church History and Evidences.

Dr. Burns appointed.

3. That the Rev. Dr. Burns be appointed to the third Theological chair, with a salary of £400.
4. That the Presbytery of Toronto, be instructed to take the necessary steps for carrying out this decision.

It was moved in amendment by Mr. Ross, seconded by Mr. McRuar, That it is not, in the circumstances expedient to appoint Dr. Burns to the third Theological chair.

The roll was called and the votes marked, when 71 voted for the motion, and 10 for the amendment; 15 declining to vote.—Dr. Burns was accordingly appointed Professor of Church History and Christian Evidences in Knox's College.

The hour of adjournment having come, the Diet was closed with prayer.

THIRTEENTH SESSION.

SAME DAY, *half-past* 3, *P. M.*

The Synod again met and was constituted.

The Minutes of last diet were read and sustained.

Deeding of College Property.

The Synod resumed the consideration of the question of deeding the College Property.

After full discussion, the following decision was come to, :—

That this whole subject be remitted to the following Committee, viz., Messrs. Kemp, Fraser, Reid, Court, Redpath Spreull, and Ferrier, Mr. Court, Convener; with instructions to take legal advice, and draw up a Trust Deed on the following principles:—

1. That the College Property be bound to the principles of this Church.

2. That the election of Trustees to hold the property shall be made by this Synod, the names of those, from whom Trustees shall be elected, being sent annually or triennially to the Synod by Congregations, according to a plan to be matured by the Committee now to be appointed, and further that the question of managers, and of the constitution and election of a board of management, be posponed till next meeting of Synod.

On motion made and seconded,

It was decided that there should be no clause, making provision for the contingency of any future disruption.

The Synod also resolved, That the Bulding Committee be instructed to take steps towards erecting an addition to the College Buildings immediately, and houses for the Professors, as soon as funds shall be obtained; and that the Committee be instructed, also, to take steps for raising funds for the purpose, and that Presbyteries be instructed to cooperate with them, by sending deputations to each Congregation and Station within their bounds.

The Building Committee was appointed as follows :—Dr. Willis, Dr. Burns, Messrs. Young, Reid, Lowry, Irvine, Inglis, Clark, Scott, McLeod, Gregg, and Duncan, Ministers; and Messrs. Spreull, Shaw, McMurrich, Court, Fisher, Dickerman, Osborne, Young, Dewar, Cowan, and Heron, Elders. Mr. Reid, Convener.

The hour of adjournment having come, the Diet was closed with prayer.

FOURTEENTH SESSION.

THE SAME DAY, 7 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Synod was again constituted.

The Minutes of last Sederunt were read and sustained.

Report of Committee on Statistics.

The Report of the Committee on Statistics was called for, and was given by Rev. S. C. Fraser, Convener. The following motion was unanimously agreed to, viz :—

That the Synod receive the Report, and record their thanks to the Convener, for his diligence in presenting a summary of the Statistics of of the Church;—instruct the Clerk to have the Report and Statistical Returns inserted in the *Record*, bound up in the printed minutes, and otherwise circulated.* In accordance with the recommendations of the Committee, the Synod appoint a Standing Committee on Statistics, with power to make alterations, in the form of returns, and to correspond with Presbyteries and Congregations; and order the returns to be made up to the 1st May, and forwarded to the Convener of the Committee, so as to be presented in a printed form to the Synod, at the commencement of its Annual Meeting.

The following Committee on Statistics was then appointed viz:—Rev. S. C. Fraser, Convener; Reid, Gregg, and J. Smith (of Ramday), Ministers; and Messrs. Court and Hay, Elders.

Ministerial support.

Mr. Ferrier on the part of the Elders attending the Synod, presented a paper on the subject of the support of the Ministry.

On motion made and seconded, it was resolved—

That the Synod receive the paper prepared by the Elders, on the subject of Ministerial support, approve its recommendations, direct to it be printed in the *Record*, and instruct Presbyteries to use diligence in seeing that the recommendations it embodies be carried into effect, especially the recommendation that £150 be the minimum annual stipend of each Minister.

Union with U. P. Church.

The Synod then proceeded to take up the subject of Union with the United Presbyterian Church. Mr. Ure, Convener of the Committee on Union, introduced to the Synod the Rev. Mr. Skinner, a Deputy from the Committee of the United Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Mr. Proudfoot, another member of the deputation being absent in consequence of indisposition. Mr. Skinner addressed the Synod, expressing the kind Christian regard of the United Presbyterian Church. The Moderator at the request of the Court made a suitable reply.

Various Petitions in favour of Union were read, viz: from St. Gabriel-street Church, Montreal; Boston and Milton; Whitby.

The Report of the Committee on Union was given in, and read by Mr. Ure.

Thereafter, it was on motion made and seconded, agreed:

That the report be received, and its recommendations adopted, and that the Synod express the satisfaction and thankfulness, with which it has heard of the meetings of the Committees of the United Presbyterian Church and our own: tender thanks to the Committee for their diligence, and re-appoint the Committee with the addition of Dr. Willis.—The Synod farther resolve to send a deputation from this Synod, to the next meeting of Synod of the United Presbyterian Church, leaving the selection of the members of the Deputation to the Committee on Union just appointed.

The Committee on Union with the U. P. Church, is composed as follows:—Mr. Lowry, Dr. Willis, Dr. Burns, Messrs. Ure, Laing, Ross, McLaren, Inglis and Duncan, Ministers; and Messrs. Heron, Young, and Fisher, of Hamilton, Elders; Mr. Ure, Convener.

Report of Committee on Publication and Colportage.

The Synod then called for the report of the Committee on Publication and Colportage. The same was given in by Mr. Inglis, Convener.—Whereupon it was moved, seconded, and unanimously agreed,

That the Synod receive and approve of the report, and feeling the vast importance of encouraging a truly Christian Literature in the rising Provinces of Canada, to counteract influences of a pernicious kind, appoint the following Committee to carry out the system; the Committee consisting of twenty-four members, one-half being Ministers, and the rest laymen (including Elders), seven to be a quorum, viz., Dr. Burns, Messrs. Scott, Reid, Ure, Burns, Irvine, John Alexander, Wardrope, Kemp, S. Young, Nisbet, Inglis, Ministers; and Messrs. Dickerman, Osborne, Young, McMurrich, Hopkins, Dewar, Mitchell, Stewart, Cowan, Court, Clark, Begg. Mr. Inglis, Convener.

The following were also appointed as corresponding members of Committee from the several Presbyteries, viz.,

From Presb'y of	Montreal	MR. CROMBIE,
"	Brockville & Ottawa	MR. DUNCAN.
"	Kingston	MR. WILSON.
"	Cobourg	MR. McKENZIE.
"	Toronto	MR. J. GRAY.
"	Hamilton	MR. BLACK.
"	London	MR. McLAREN.

The Synod further authorized the Committee to visit the congregations, with the view of Collecting funds, and recommended to Congregations to contribute for this important Synod.

Report of Widows' Fund Committee.

Thereafter the Synod called for the report of the Committee on the Widows' Fund. The same was given in and read. From the report it appears that the accumulated fund is now £4846 10s. 3½d. There was also read, a statement from Hugh C. Baker, Esq., of the Canada Insurance Company, with reference to the state of the fund, in which it was stated that it was absolutely necessary to keep the annual congregational collections.

On motion made and seconded, it was agreed,

That the Synod receive and sustain the report, re-appoint the Committee, and tender their thanks to Mr. Baker, instructing the Moderator to transmit a letter to Mr. Baker to this effect. Farther the Synod agree, that, in accordance with the opinion of the Actuary, the annual congregational collections be kept up, and enjoin all Presbyteries to take steps for bringing, by the visit of Deputations, or otherwise, the claims of the Widow's Fund before those congregations that have not as yet adequately contributed to it.

The Synod adjourned to meet to-morrow, at 9 o'clock, A. M., and the diet was closed with prayer.

FIFTEENTH SESSION.

WEDNESDAY, 18*th June*, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Synod again met and was constituted.

The minutes of last diet were read and sustained.

Report of Committee on Sabbath Observance.

On Wednesday morning the called for the report of the Committee on Sabbath Observance. The same was given in by Mr. R. F. Burns, Convener.

On motion made and seconded, it was agreed—

To receive and sustain the report, adopt its recommendations and re-appoint the Committee.

The Synod farther resolved that a memorial to the British Government be drawn up on the subject of public Sabbath desecration by amusements or otherwise, and that this memorial be signed by the Moderator and Clerk of Synod, and committed to those members of Synod, who are understood to have it in view to visit Britain in the course of the present season, viz., Dr. Burns, Rev. Messrs. Scott and L. McPherson. Dr. Burns, Dr. Willis and Mr. Scott, Ministers, with Mr. Heron, Elder, were appointed a Committee to prepare a draft of said memorial.

Overture on Duties of Elders and Deacons.

The Synod then proceeded to take up the following overture from the Presbytery of Montreal on the duties of Elders and Deacons:—

Whereas, it appears that the ancient and scriptural order of Deacons has been revived in this Church, and the formation of Deacon's Courts has been recommended by the Supreme Court. Whereas, also, it is necessary and expedient for the guidance of Churches and office-bearers as well as for the edification and peace of the Church at large, to define and regulate the duties of Elders and Deacons respectively, and to prescribe the powers of the meeting of congregational office-bearers for secular business; it is therefore hereby humbly overtured to the very Reverend the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, by the Presbytery of Montreal, to transmit to Presbyteries, for their consideration, the following rules of procedure:—

I. RESPECTING THE DUTIES OF ELDERS.

1st. That they sit in Session along with the Minister and assist in the administration of discipline, and in the spiritual goverment of the Church.

2nd. That they take a careful oversight of the people's morals and religious principles, of the attendance upon public ordinances, and of the state of personal and family religion.

3rd. That they visit the sick from time to time in their several districts.

4th. That they superintend the religious instructions of the young, and assist the Minister in ascertaining the qualifications of applicants for admission to church-membership.

5th. That they superintend and promote the formation of meetings within their districts for prayer, reading of the Scriptures, and Christian fellowship among the members of the Church.

6th. That it belongs to the Session to determine as to the election of Elders and Deacons, whether as regards the time and circumstances where such election may be necessary, or the number of those office-bearers that shall be chosen, and to superintend the whole proceedings therein according to the laws of the Church. It belongs also to the Session to receive and accept the resignation of Deacons.

7th. That while it belongs to the Minister as pastor to summon the congregation together at other times than on the Lord's day, as he may deem expedient, for the purposes of Divine worship, or for edification, still it is necessary that all meetings of the Church for the consideration of congregational matters, should be summoned by authority of the Session, by citation from the pulpit on the Lord's-day previous to the day appointed for such meeting.

8th. The Session shall be convened by the Minister as often as he shall see fit, or at the requisition of two Elders. The citation shall either be from the pulpit or personally to each member.

9th. Two Elders with the Minister shall be a quorum, and no meeting of Session can be held in the absence of the regular minister; or, in the case of a vacancy, in the absence of the interim Minister appointed by the Presbytery.

II. RESPECTING THE DUTIES WHICH ARE COMMON TO ELDERS AND DEACONS.

1st. The Elders deliberate and vote equally with the Deacons in the Deacons' Court.

2nd. Both Elders and Deacons may receive the Sabbath collections of the people according to such arrangements as may be made by the Deacons' Court.

3rd. That for the better discharge of their peculiar duties respectively as well as with a view to increasee usefulness, both Elders and Deacons visit the districts assigned to them.

4th. That it is competent for Elders to discharge all the functions of Deacons, when a sufficient number of Deacons cannot be had.

III. RESPECTING THE PECULIAR DUTIES OF DEACONS.

1st. That they give special regard to the whole revenue and property of the Church.

2nd. That they attend to the gathering of the people's contributions for the support of the Ministry; and that they receive the donations which may be made for other ecclesiastical purposes.

3rd. That they attend to the poor of the Church.

4th. That they watch over the education of the children of the poor.

5th. That they assist the Elders with their advice whether in session or otherwise, when requested so to do.

IV. RESPECTING THE MEETING OF MINISTERS, ELDERS AND DEACONS, FOR THE SECULAR AFFAIRS OF THE CHURCH; WHICH MEETING MAY BE CALLED THE DEACONS' COURT.

1st. That the Minister presides in such meeting when he is present, and in his absence any Elder or Deacon whom the meeting may appoint.

2nd. That the said meeting, or Deacons' Court, shall be convened by citation from the pulpit, or by personal notice to the members thereof, and is called by authority of the Minister, or at the requisition of any three members, said requisition being addressed to the Minister, or in time of a vacancy of the pastoral charge, to the clerk of the Deacons' Court. Three shall form a quorum and the proceedings shall be opened and closed with prayer.

3rd. That this Court has the management of the whole revenue and property of the congregation, including the appropriation of seats with the determination of all questions relating thereto; and it is the province and duty of said Court to apply the congregational funds to the proper support of the Ministry and to the payment of the salaries of the various subordinate functionaries, and the defraying of all necessary charges connected with the property, or with the dispensation of Christian ordinances; likewise to make special collections as often as may be necessary for the temporal relief of poor members and the education of poor children; also, to see that the annual collections, by appointment of the Synod, for Missionary and other ecclesiastical purposes, be regularly made, and transmitted to the General Treasurer of the Church.

4th. That the Deacons' Court shall take special heed that the ordinary revenue or funds of the Church be exclusively applied to the defraying of the ordinary liabilities and charges; and that for all extraordinary purposes, such as the erection or the repairing of a Church or manse, or the payment of debts on the property, special contributions shall be asked from the congregation.

5. That while the Church is solely at the disposal of the Minister for all religious purposes, yet the consent of the Deacons' Court as well as of the Minister, is necessary before any meeting, not strictly of a religious, ecclesiastical, or charitable nature, can be held in it

6th. That the said Court shall have one or more Treasurers, and a Clerk; and a separate record for the minutes of its proceedings.

7th. That the records of the Court with the Treasurer's account of receipts and expenditure, after the same shall have been duly audited by appointment of the Court, shall be annually exhibited to the Presbytery of the bounds at its first ordinary meeting after the 31st of March, or such other time as the Presbytery may appoint, for the purpose of being examined and attested by the Presbytery at said meeting.

8th. That on some convenient day immediately following the attestation of the Presbytery, a Congregational meeting shall be held, when the Deacons' Court shall present a report of its proceedings for the past year, and give such explanations and information as may be asked for, and receive any suggestions that may be offered by the members of the Church with reference to the future distribution of its funds. The congregational meeting shall be convened as directed by Sec. 1 No. 7, and the Minister, if present, shall preside, and in his absence any member of the Church whom the meeting may appoint. The proceedings shall be opened and closed with prayer.

9th. That to the Deacon's Court belong the appointment and dismissal of the Church Officer, and Door-keeper, and the nomination of qualified candidates for the office of precentor for election by the congregation. The precentor shall be under the direction of the Deacons' Court.

10th. That while it is inexpedient to sustain complaints or appeals against the ordinary administration of the Deacons' Court in secular and financial affairs, the said Court is nevertheless subject to the review of the Presbytery, in so far as it may take any step, or adopt any resolution which the Presbytery finds to be of a censurable nature, or in violation of any enactment of the Synod.

11th. In those Churches in which as yet there are no Deacons, the Synod would again recommend the Sessions to constitute, as soon as may be, Deacons' Courts in their respective Churches. Also, in the meantime, and until Deacons shall be elected, the Synod hereby appoints that the above regulations, in so far as they are applicable to Deacons' Courts, shall equally apply to the Session, in its administration of the revenue and property of the Church.

12th. While it appears that in some churches it has been found both necessary and expedient, to commit to temporal committees, or trustees, or proprietors, the administraton of the secular affairs of the Church yet as these have no place in the scriptural constitution of the Presbyterian Church, they ought not to receive ecclesiastical sanction as permanent arrangements: nevertheless, in all cases in which Deacons' Courts cannot be immediately substituted for such committees, the Synod advises that they conform their precedure to the above rules for the regulation of Deacons' Courts.

ent down to Presbyteries.

The following motion was agreed to, viz.,

The Synod having heard the overture read, and having heard also various parties in support of it, agree to transmit it to Presbyteries for their consideration, with instructions to report their opinions regarding it to the ensuing meeting of Synod.

Overture on Management of Congregational matters.

The Synod then took up an overture from the Presbytery of Hamilton, on the management of congregational matters. The overture was in the following terms, viz:—

"Whereas, some congregations in connection with the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, and under the inspection of its Presbyteries, do commit the management of their congregational affairs to pew-holders, pew-owners, or subscribers, instead of communicants; and whereas the tendency of such practices is to bring the Church into bondage to the world:—Therefore, the Presbytery of Hamilton do hereby respectfully overture the Rev'd. the Synod of the said Church, to order, that congregations, hereafter organized under the supervision of the Presbyteries of the Synod, shall be organized in consistency with the word of God, and our sub-ordinate standards, giving the right of suffrage and management only to communicants in good and regular standing; and that where the constitutions of existing congregations are at variance

with this rule they may be directed to conform to it in such a way as shall be for the edification of the body of Christ; and that special attention be directed to the Synod's former action in regard to the formation of Deacons' Court."

It was on motion made and seconded, agreed—

That the Synod, having heard the overture read, and also members of the Presbytery of Hamilton in support of it, send it down to the Presbyies for their consideration, instructing them to report their opinions to the next ordinary meeting of Synod.

Regulations regarding Examination of Students.

The Committee appointed to draw regulations anent the examination, of students presented a report in the following terms, viz.,

The Committee on the examination of students, beg to offer as their report the following recommendations:—

I. That Presbyteries be enjoined to give attention to the thorough examination of students; and that no student shall be admitted in any year of his Literary or Theological course, to attend the classes in Knox's College, without presenting to the Professors' Court the certificate of the Presbytery by which he has been examined; and further that before a student is examined by a Presbytery, with a view to his receiving the annual certificate, he must have resided for six weeks within the bounds of the Presbytery: unless his own Presbytery testify that he was necessarily prevented from appearing before them—in which case, it shall be competent for a student to be examined by another Presbytery.

II. That the College Committee be instructed to draw out and publish for the guidance of Presbyteries a programme for the examination of students, indicating the attainments required from entrants, also from students in the succes-ive years of the curriculum.

III. That Presbyteries be required to report annually to the Synod through the College Committee, on the examination of students within their bounds.

It was agreed to sanction the report and enact according to its recommendations.

Quarterly Collections appointed.

The stated collections were appointed in the following order, viz., Collection for French Canadian Missionary Society, on 3rd Sabbath of July. For Buxton Mission and Synod Fund, on 3rd Sabbath of October. For Foreign Missions, on 2nd Sabbath of January, and for Widows' Fund, on 3rd Sabbath of March.

Presbytery of Toronto constituted Special Commission.

The Synod appointed the Presbytery of Toronto to act as a Special Commission, together with the members of the Foreign Mission Committee, for the purpose of designating the Rev. John Laing as a Missionary to India on such a day as may be appointby the Presbytery.

On motion made and seconded, it was unanimously agreed,

Thanks to Office-bearers of Saint Andrew's Ch'rch, and friends in London.

That the thanks of the Synod be tendered to the office-bearers and members of the Congregation, and other friends who have so hospitably and kindly ministered to the comfort and convenience of the members during the meeting of Synod.

After a suitable address, and the singing of the CXXII. Psalm the Moderator announced that the business of Synod was now over, and that the next ordinary meeting of Synod would be held in Kingston, and within Chalmers' Church there, on the 2nd Tuesday of June, 1857.

Synod closed.

The Synod was then closed with the apostolic blessing

APPENDIX.

ANNUAL PRESBYTERIAL REPORTS.

PRESBYTERY OF TORONTO.

The Presbytery of Toronto have to Report, that on the 31st of October, 1855, the Rev. James Findlay was loosed from the pastoral charge of the congregations in Whitby.

No other change during the past year.

THOS. WIGHTMAN, *Pres. Clerk.*

PRESBYTERY OF MONTREAL.

License:

1. Mr. D. B. Pearce, licensed to preach the Gospel, on 18th October, 1855.

Ordinations:

1. Mr. John Crombie, probationer, ordained at Laguerre, 8th August, 1855.
2. Mr. Peter Currie, probationer, ordained at Vankleekhill, 19th February, 1856.

Inductions:

1. Rev. Ewen McLean, (ordained missionary), inducted at Winslow, 1st September, 1855.
2. Rev. A. F. Kemp, formerly of Bolton, England, inducted at St. Gabriel Street Church, Montreal, on the 4th September, 1855.
3. Rev. John Crombie, translated from Laguerre, and inducted at Inverness, on 27th May, 1856.
4. Rev. William Scott, translated from St. Eustache and Grand Frenier, and inducted at St. Sylvester, on 28th May, 1856.

D. FRASER, *Pres. Clerk.*

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.

Certified List of cases of License, Ordination, Induction, Deposition, or Death of Ministers, within the bounds of the Presbytery of Hamilton, since the meeting of Synod at Montreal, in June, 1855:

Ordinations:

1. Mr. Alexander McLean, probationer, to the charge at East Puslinch, 14th Nov. 1855.
2. Mr. William McIndoe, probationer, to the united charges of Wellington Square and Waterdown, the 21st November, 1855.
3. Mr. William Craigie, probationer, to the united charges of Port Dover and Simcoe, 5th June, 1856.
4. Mr. James Middlemiss, probationer, to the charge at Elora, 3rd June, 1856.

Inductions:

1. The Rev. Robert F. Burns, to the charge at St. Catherines, 11th July, 1855.
2. The Rev. John Gillespie to the charge at Blenheim, 18th July, 1855.

M. Y. STARK, *Pres. Clerk.*

PRESBYTERY OF LONDON.

INDUCTIONS.

Three inductions have taken place during the past year, viz.:

1. Rev. N. Bethune, Thamesford.
2. Rev. J. Ferguson, Lobo.
3. Rev. J. Gauld, Moore.

DEATHS.

Rev. N. Bethune, 20th January, 1856.

JOHN SCOTT, *Pres. Clerk.*

PRESBYTERY OF BROCKVILLE AND OTTAWA.

Two demissions have taken place in this Presbytery, in the course of the past year, viz: Rev. A. Melville, formerly of Pembroke, and Rev. John McMurray, Brockville.

S. C. FRASER, *Pres. Clerk.*

PRESBYTERY OF COBOURG.

The Presbytery of Cobourg have to Report that the Rev. James A. Thomson was ordained on the 25th of July, as minister of Trenton, and Murray.

J. BOWIE, *Pres. Clerk.*

PRESBYTERY OF KINGSTON.

The Presbytery of Kingston Report, that during the past year they have released the Rev. Robert F. Burns from the charge of Chalmers' Church, Kingston, he having accepted a call from St. Catherines. That they have accepted the resignation of Rev. James Rogers, of the charge of Demorestville, and Rev. James W. Chesnut, of the charge of Madoc, and that they have ordained the Rev. David B. Pearce as pastor of Chalmers' Church, Kingston.

WILLIAM GREGG, *Pres. Clerk.*

REPORT ON PUBLICATION AND COLPORTAGE.

In presenting their Report your Committee have much pleasure in stating that active and enlarged efforts have been displayed by some of the Presbyteries in the distribution of a sound Theological Literature. The Presbyteries of London, Montreal, and Hamilton have had Colporteurs employed within their bounds to the number of 20 and upwards. There are now in the field about 13—of whom several are students of Knox's College, who are employing a part of the summer vacation in this good work. Thousands of families have been visited during this period, and with the most of these the Colporteurs have held religious conversations. Books to the number of many thousands have been sold; chiefly the publications of Nelson & Sons, Carter & Brothers, and the Presbyterian Board of Publication, Philadelphia. In this way much precious seed of the kingdom has already been scattered, which may yet bring forth fruit thirtyfold. But those more immediately engaged in the work, feel increasingly the necessity of a General Board to superintend the conduct and extension thereof. It is however to be distictly understood that all the Colporteurs employed by the Board shall be under the direct ecclesiastical supervision of the Presbyteries in whose bounds they are labouring —they beg leave to submit the following draft of a Constitution.

Draft of a Constitution laid before the Committee of Publication, and Ordered to be Printed and sent to the Members of Committee.

I. THE SYNOD of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, shall superintend and conduct the publication and circulation of religious books, designed for general diffusion among the Churches under its care. The immediate superintendence of this work shall be entrusted to a Committee appointed for that purpose, to be called the "Board of Publication and Colportage," said Board to be directly amenable to the Synod.

II. The Synod shall, at its present meeting, elect twelve Ministers and twelve Laymen as members of the Board of Publication and Colportage, who, at their first meeting, shall divide themselves into three classes: the first class of eight members shall serve for one year, the second for two years, and the third for three years, —the vacancies occuring by the expiration of these terms to be filled up by election, at the annual meeting of the Synod.—Each class after the ..ro first, serving for three years.

III. To this Board, under the direction and instruction of the Synod, shall be entrusted the superintendence of the publication of works pertaining to the History, Discipline, Government, Doctrine, and General Religious Literature of our Church. Also the circulation of similar religious works published by other parties, and shall superintend and conduct the diffusion of such books by Depositories and Colportage.

IV. The Board, at its first meeting after the annual meeting of Synod, shall elect a Secretary, Treasurer, Agent, and Executive Committee, for the ensuing year; the Convener being elected by the Synod, and he, together with the Secretary and Treasurer being (ex-officio) members of the Executive Committee.

V. The Executive Committee shall consist of seven Members, and the duty of said Committee shall be to select books, to examine manuscripts submitted for publication and to superintend the publication of such as may be approved, making all contracts for printing, binding, &c.; to direct the work of colportage, and to take particular direction and management of the whole matters of publication and distribution, subject to the control and direction of the Board.

VI. All property, whether in books, fixtures, or permanent funds, shall be held by the Board, for the use and benefit of the Synod.

VII. The seat of operations shall be in the City of Hamilton, but the Committee shall have power to locate Branch Depositories at any other place which they may deem expedient.

VIII. The financial operations of the Board shall, in all cases, be conducted on cash principles.

BY-LAWS.

I

MEETING OF THE BOARD.

The Board shall meet statedly on the first Monday of each alternate month, and shall hold an annual meeting on the first Monday of the, month succeeding the annual meeting of Synod. Seven members shall constitute a quorum. Special meetings may be called by the Convener, notice of such meeting to be given to each member of the Board. The following shall be the order of business at each meeting:

1. Prayer.
2. Reading minutes of last meeting.
3. Do. do. Executive Committee.
4. Report of Secretary.
5. Do. Treasurer.
6. Do. Agent.

7. Unfinished business.
8. New Business.
9. Prayer.

II.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

§ 1. *The Convener.*—It shall be the duty of the Convener to take the general supervision of the affairs of the scheme, to call special meetings of the Board, to preside at meetings of Board and Executive Committee, to enforce the by-laws and preserve order. In the absence of the Convener, the Board shall elect a Chairman, *pro-tempore*, on whom those duties shall devolve.

§ 2. *Secretary.*—It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep a fair record of the minutes of the Board, and also of the Executive Committee, and to conduct the correspondence of the Board.

§ 2. *Treasurer.*—It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to take charge of the funds of the scheme, to pay all orders signed by the Agent, and countersigned by the Convener, to report to the executive Committee at each of their meetings, or as often as called upon, on the state of the funds, and to prepare an annual account up to the first of May, for presentation to the Synod.

§ 4. *Agent or Superintendent.*—The Agent shall take charge of the Depository keeping all the property thereof in good order. He shall take charge of all the publications, receive orders from Colporteurs, Depositories and others, he shall lay before the Executive Committee, at each meeting, all bills and accounts against the scheme, and debts, and see that the books and accounts are properly kept; He shall also conduct the whole business correspondence of the scheme, and shall lay before the Executive Committee what purchases and arrangements are necessary, as well as what books and tracts are required—no purchases and arrangements being made by him without the sanction of the Executive Committee.

§ 5; *Executive Committee.*—This Committee shall meet on the first Monday of each alternate month, being these months in which there are no stated meetings of the Board. Five members shall constitute a quorum.—The order of business shall be as follows:

1. Prayer.
2. Reading Minutes of last Meeting.
3. Report of Agent.
4. Do.. Treasurer.
5. Do Standing Committees.
6. Do. Special Committees.
7. Unfinished Business.
8. New Business.
9. Prayer.

The Executive Committee shall decide on all works for publication and distribution, and in order to read and revise such works as may be presented for publication, they shall appoint a standing Committee on Publications.

They shall conduct all arrangements with publishers, authors, and others, in reference to the preparing and publishing of tracts and books, and to this end they may, if deemed necessary, appoint an editor to prepare such works for the press and to attend to the correction of the proofs.

The Executive Committee shall determine prices, style for binding, and other arrangments connected with publication.

All books, documents, or periodicals ordered for publication by the Synod, shall be published under the supervision of this Committee.

The whole business of the Agent or Superintendent shall be under the supervision and control of this Committee.

The Committee shall elect all the Colporteurs of the scheme from nominations made by the Agent after trial and careful inquiry.

The Committee shall be empowered, if they see necessary, to elect from their number Standing Committees on Finance and Colportage.

The Committee shall keep a careful record of their proceedings in a suitable book to be submitted at each meeting of the Board.

III

MISCELLANEOUS.

§ 1. Each publication of this scheme shall bear the imprint, 'Presbyterian Church of Canada —Publication Board:' and a stamp bearing this imprint shall be prepared, with which all books purchased from other publishers shall be stamped on one of the fly leaves. No book shall be thus stamped that has not been voted upon and adopted by the Executive Committee, and no books without the stamp, except the sacred Scriptures and Psalms and Paraphrases, authorized versions, shall be issued from the Depositories

§ 2. The Burning Bush with the legend "*nec tamen consumebatur*" shall be imprinted on all books and periodicals directly published by the Committee.

§ 2. A discount of 20 per cent. shall be allowed on all cash purchases by Ministers, Theological Students, and Sabbath Schools, and an additional discount of 3 per cent. on all purchases by the same parties to the amount of £5 or upwards.

§ 4. All persons contributing at one time to the amount of £12 10s, shall be allowed each year's tracks and books for private distribution to the amount of 5s. in value.

§ 5. Provision shall also be made in the case of benevolent individuals wishing to effect the publication of an approved work at a low price that any contribution they may make for that purpose will be applied so as to secure that end

§ 6. The Agent shall be required to devote his time to the interests of the Society, and shall be paid an annual salary of £—

While the Board cannot in the mean time undertake any extended plan of publication, your Committee beg leave to submit to the Synod the following terms from Messrs. Nelson & Sons, Edinburgh and Toronto.

"*York Chambers, Toronto,*
"April 29th, 1856.

"Terms offered to the Committee of Publication of the Presbyterian Church of Canada."

"Thomas Nelson & Sons agree to supply the Committee of Publication with the books named in their catalogue at one-fourth off the retail prices.

"The prices affixed to the specimens presented are the nett cost to the Committee in currency; the retail price being one-third above nett price.

"Where an order for 200 or upwards of any one book is given, the name, motto, or designation of the Committee, or any information the Committee may desire, will be printed free of extra charge, and no other imprint will appear in the title page.

"When an order for 500 or upwards of any one book is given a reduction of 5 per cent. will be made; being in all one-third off retail price and 5 per cent. extra.

"And when an order for 1000 or upwards is given a further reduction of 5 per cent. will be made, being in all, one-third off, and 15 per cent. extra.

"Thomas Nelson & Sons agree to publish any reprint of any existing book or original work desired by the Committee, on the lowest terms consistent with good work, and to hold for the Committee stereotype plates and engravings, or other property connected therewith, and to produce editions of such books when ordered in the same ratio as the specimens presented, or when such books are suitable for Thomas Nelson & Sons general trade, they will offer for the copy right and for permission to sell them.

"Also to furnish catalogues of their own publications with the imprimatur of the Committee at cost price, or will add any list of other publications at a slight advance at cost price.

"Also to deliver in Toronto, free of charge, all orders received from the Committee.

"Accounts to be rendered 1st January and 1st July. An average credit of 6 months being allowed.

"For THOMAS NELSON & SONS,
"JAMES CAMPBELL.

"To the Committee of Publication of the
"Presbyterian Church of Canada."

Terms in many respects similar have been submitted by Messrs. Carter & Brothers of New York. The Committee respectfully recommend that the Board be directed and empowered to arrange fully with Messrs. Nelson & Sons as Synod's Publishers, and to secure a supply of such volumes published by Messrs. Carter & Brothers, and the Presbyterian Board of Publication Philadelphia, as the Board may agree to adopt according to the provision of the Constitution.

Your Committee would add here that the advantages resulting from obtaining such a quantity of books as a general Synodical scheme will render necessary, will go far to defray the expenses of the Depository and the Agent's stipend. The funds required from the Churches being thus applied to the purely Missionary work of the Board.

A reference from last Synod in regard to the American Tract Society was taken up by your Committee, and it was unanimously agreed that there should be no connection, under present circumstances, between that Society and the contemplated Board.

Your Committee further report:—That in accordance with the reference of the Synod last year, a book on the duties of the Eldership has been carefully prepared, and is now under the consideration of your Committee. They are authorized further to say in behalf of the Committee on Ministers Libraries, that the provision made in the Constitution for the discounts to Ministers will, in a great measure, attain the end designed by that Committee.

Your Committee would further direct your attention to the necessity of employing a Lay Agency in the evangelization of these lands.—Colportage is in the opinion of your Committee, the safest, most efficient, and economical mode of employing such agency. Those who have given themselves fully to the work, feel a growing conviction of its importance, as giving access to Romish and other families, where the door would otherwise be closed, as well as carrying the Gospel to the remote districts of our land where preachers of the Gospel are seldom seen. Colportage is admirably adapted for counteracting the profane and demoralizing literature which is being scattered over our towns and hamlets, as well as for diffusing information as to

the doctrines of our Church, and in time stregthening the faith of our people in our great and characteristic doctrines. All these considerations give importance and value to the work, which the Committee earnestly and respectfully commend to the consideration of the Synod.

DAVID INGLIS, *Convener*.

REPORT ON STATISTICS.

The Committee on Statistics in presenting their Annual Report have to observe that, notwithstanding the decided recommendation of Synod, the returns given in this year do not exceed those of last year, considering the increase in the number of settled charges. It was reported at last Synod that twelve congregations had omitted to send in their returns, and the Committee regret to state that, at least, an equal number are in default this year; two of which were unrepresented last year. It is but an act of justice to all parties to record them for the information of the respective Presbyteries:—

Presbytery of Montreal; 6—Indian Lands, Osnabruck, Lingwick, St. Sylvester, English River, Leeds.

Brockville and Ottawa; 1—Osgoode and Gloucester.

Kingston; 3—Gananoque, Madoc, Roslin, and Melrose.

Cobourg; 3—S. Cavan, Cartwright, Percy.

Toronto; None.

Hamilton; 2—Wellesly, E. Puslinch.

London; 1—Port Stanley.

Total, 16.

It is to be noted that vacant congregations are not included in the above list, that in the case of the Presbytery of Kingston, the minister of Gananoque is absent from the country, and that the other places mentioned have since become vacant. Cartwright and Percy in the Presbytery of Cobourg are vacant.

(It will be seen from the statistical tables that returns have since been received from English River, Gananoque and S. Cavan.)

MEMBERSHIP.

The Committee report with great satisfaction an increase in the membership, although the returns do not nearly embrace all the congregations It is delightful to note progress in any department of the Church's great work; but it is still more pleasing to record improvement in the spiritual element. The silver and the gold do not constitute the strength of any Church —its efficiency and permanency depend on the purity and spirituality of its members. It may e asserted with confidence that if all were included, the tabular statement hereto annexed would present even a more pleasing appearance than it now does. Still, an increase in one year of 2,531 members is matter of great thankfulness:—

PRESBYTERIES.	No. of Ministers	Members	Increase in 1856	Cong'l Libraries.	No. of Vols. in	Manses & Glebes	Value of Manses & Glebes	Value of Church's
Montreal	19	1776	77	5	961	7		
Brockville and Ottawa	13	1804	75	3	650	5		
Kingston	5	518	26	2	280			
Cobourg	11	1498	150	2	325	4		
Toronto	19	2116	212	6	1569	4		
Hamilton	22	3553	518	5	1304	4		
London	21	2457	315	4	649	9		
Total	110	13729	1373	27	5743	33	11067	77312
Last year	104	11191	1509	25	5030	35	10942	49805
Increase	6	2531	—136	2	707	8	125	27507

It thus appears that there is an increase in all the items save the increase of members on the year, while the total increase of the membership, as already noted, approaches nearly 3000. This apparent discrepancy arises from the changes in the congregations reported and not reported.

It is gratifying to notice the increase in the number of Congregational Libraries, and likewise of Manses and Glebes. The Committee would renew their recommendation that congregations would pay particular attention to these matters, with a view to subserve their own improvement and the comfort of their pastors.

By referring to the report of last year, it may be seen that the material property of the Church amounted to between £60,000 and £70,000; this year it reaches to within a trifle of £90,000, and if the other congregations were reported it would exceed £100,000.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

It is matter of regret that some congregations

that elicited remarks last year, have abstained from presenting a statement of their affairs for the year just closed. It is thus impossible to say whether good has been done by the remarks made on former occasions, or whether Presbyteries have done their duty. Shame, probably, has been the cause why a report has not been given in.

STIPENDS.

In the matter of ministerial support there is a favourable and unfavourable phase, but, upon the whole, there is ground of encouragement. The Committee would submit to the Synod the case of the following congregations that pay their ministers less than £100 per annum:

Presbytery of Montreal, 3—Metis, £80, St. Therese, £50, Richmond, £85.

Presbytery of Brockville and Ottawa, 3—Dalhousie, £80, Aylmer & Nepean, £90, S. Gower, £95.

Presbytery of Hamilton, 1—Owen Sound, £76.

Presbytery of London, 1—Amherstburgh, £82

The Presbyteries of Kingston, Cobourg, and Toronto have reported no minister in the receipt of less than £100 per annum.

The salaries throughout the bounds of the Synod, as far as reported, range through the following scale.

Under £100		8	this year to	7	last yr.
£100 and under	150	44	"	50	"
£150 "	200	25	"	13	"
£200 "	300	7	"	6	"
£300 "	400	4	"	2	"
	400	2	"	2	"

It thus appears that there has been a considerable rise in the amount paid to ministers. It is to be hoped that another year will present a still more pleasing state of things in this respect.

KNOX'S COLLEGE.

It was reported last year, that 13 congregations had failed to contribute to the funds of our Theological Institute; and notwithstanding the earnest appeals made on that occasion, 17 are reported this year with this column blank—an increase of 4 in the wrong direction. The deliberations of Synod in connection with this Institution have already, no doubt, superseded the necessity of pressing on the churches the duty of being more than usually liberal. An increase in the expenditure, calls for an increase in the donations of the people.

The congregations who have failed are:—

Presbytery of Montreal; 3—St. Therese, Lachute, St. Louis and Durham.

Brockville and Ottawa; 4—Dalhousie, S. Gower, Wakefield, Alymer and Nepanee.

Kingston; 1—Chalmers' Church Kingston.

Cobourg; 2—Baltimore, Trenton.

Toronto; 1—Barrie.

Hamilton; 2—Niagara, Paris.

London; 4—Stratford, Woodstock, (Eng.) Buxton Saugeen.

Although the number in default is greater than last year, yet the amount reported, as will be seen in the subjoined table, exceeds considerably the contributions of that year.

(In point of fact the contributions for the ordinary College Fund are rather less than last year, the apparent increase arising from the circumstance that two or three congregations have included their contributions to the Building Fund in their returns.)

F. C. MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

Only 4 congregations are reported this year, to 8 last year, as not having taken up the Synodical collection for this scheme, viz: Nassagaweya, Paris and Blenheim, in the Presbytery of Hamilton, and N. Easthope in the Presbytery of London

BUXTON MISSION AND SYNOD FUND.

The following six congregations have not contributed to this object:

Presbytery of Montreal; 2—St.Gabriel Street Church, Montreal; Metis.

Cobourg; 1—Trenton.

Hamilton; 2—Paris, Wellington Square.

London; 1—Brucefield.

In the Presbyteries of Toronto, and Brockville, and Ottawa, there are no blanks!

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The recent decision of Synod has given this scheme a new and increased interest. We have a Foreign Mission of *our own*, and there is little doubt that the contributions of the people will respond to the act of faith of the Synod in God and in them. Only 7 have failed to collect for the last year, and the committee believe, that next year's report will present few or no blanks.

The 7 who have not reported contributions are Metis, Trenton, Chinguacousy, Streetsville, King, Wellington Square, Ingersol.

WIDOWS' FUND.

The contributions to this deeply interesting scheme are upon the whole encouraging, although there are still eleven congregations who are unrepresented. They are the following:—

Presbytery of Montreal; 2—Metis, Richmond.

Kingston; 1—Chalmers' Church, Kingston.

Cobourg; 1—Trenton.

Toronto; 2—Chinguacousy, Acton.

Hamilton; 4—Nassagaweya, Niagara, Paris, Blenheim.

Brockville and Ottawa, and London Presbyteries have no blanks!

BURSARIES.

The Synod has had its attention already called to the importance of this subject, and it is hoped that the facts stated will have their influence on the next year's contributions. Young men of promise have often been deterred from entering College, on account of their inability to meet the necessary expense. A few dollars from each of our congregations would greatly supplement the means of the student. Only seven congregations, within the bounds, have aided this fund. They are St. Gabriel Street Church, Montreal, Ramsay, Dundas, Galt, Knox's Church Hamilton, St Catharines. As the sums are scarcely noticeable in themselves, they are added to the miscellaneous in the following comprehensive table:—

TABULAR STATEMENT, 1856.

PRESBYTERIES.	Stipend.	Knox's College	F. C. Mis'y Soc'y	Buxton Mission	Foreign Mission	Widows' Fund	Pres. Home Mis	Paid on Buildings	Miscellaneous
Montreal	2690	301	21*	41	110	47	127	1077	1195
Brockville and Ottawa	1548	49	57	31	45	27	42	610	340
Kingston	678*	30	24	15*	21	10*	40	153	283
Cobourg	1611	102	23*	25*	63	2*	58*	885	233
Toronto	2228	189	80	74	76	59	91	988	1082
Hamilton	3198	505	80	82	179	135	197	1164	1607
London	2490	108*	61	56*	97	56*	234	1225	858
Totall	13803	1284	455	324	591	154	792	6102	5564
In 1855	11469	840	445	307	531	148	765	5664	4199
Increase in 1856	2334	444	10	17	60	6	27	438	1365

Those Presbyteries whose contributions this year are less than those of last year, are marked with an *

PRESBYTERY H M. FUND.

All the congregations in the Presbyteries of Brockville and Ottawa, Kingston, and Toronto have contributed to their respective local funds, and the same may be said of the Presbytery of Montreal. The congregations of Norwood in the Presbytery of Cobourg, and Guelph and Niagara in that of Hamilton have given nothing. Saugeen is the only non-contributor in the Presbytery of London.

The following is a recapitulation of all the contributions in the several Presbyteries:—

Montreal	£5109
Brockville and Ottawa	2691
Kingston	1254
Cobourg	3905
Toronto	4876
Hamilton	7157
London	5096
Grand Total	£30,088

Last year the amount was about £25000—there is thus an increase on the year of at least, £5000.

Hamilton, as last year, is the Presbytery that raises the greatest amount of money, and Knox's Church, Hamilton, the congregation. The amount contributed by this congregation, is £1566, about £40 more than Coté Street Church, Montreal, the next in order.

The Committee in concluding their report, have pleasure in stating that the devotedness of the ministers to missionary and pastoral work is matter o thankfulness. With few exceptions all the Pastors within the bounds visit the families of their congregations, at least once a year. Bible classes and Sabbath Schools are found in connection with almost all the congregations, and it is believed that few laborers are more zealous and self-denying than the majority of the ministers of this Synod. Your Committee would not overlook the lesson taught by Paul that "God giveth the increase."

The Committe would submit in an appendix changes which they believe, would render the report more full as well as less laborious in time to come.

All the papers have now been gone over, and the Committee feel that they are called upon to to thank God, and congratulate the Synod for the encouraging results that are educed. In all departments there has been an increase, and the Committee believe they are warranted to hope that our people will show the same diligence in years to come. The sum of £13,803, raised for

stipends, divided by 110, would give each minister upwards of £125—an increase of £5 on the proportion of last year; and although the sum is small, it is an indication of progress.

In fine, our church now consists of 110 settled ministers, about 20 ordained missionaries or probationers, 1349 reported members, upwards of 28000 average attendance on Sabbath, raising upwards of £30000 for its various schemes, and possessing property to the extent of at least £100,000.

In the name of Committee,
S. C. FRASER.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The Committee on Foreign Missions come before the Synod with a profound sense of the importance of the work for which they were appointed. It is their conviction that the Church is loudly called to take an active share in the propagation of the Gospel among the heathen. Great as are the demands upon the people connected with this Synod for the erection of Churches and support of Gospel ordinances among themselves, for Canadian Missions, and for the Theological College, the claims of the perishing world beyond, cannot and must not be treated with neglect.

Impressed with the necessity of seeking Divine guidance in every step towards a Foreign Mission, the Committee immediately after the last Synod rose, came to a resolution agreeing to spread this cause before the Lord in simultaneous prayer on every Saturday evening. It is the humble persuasion of the Committee that the favorable prospect of an efficient Mission, which now opens before the Church, is given in answer to prayer.

The work of the Committee has hitherto been one solely of preparation and inquiry. No Missionary has yet gone forth from the Church to heathen shores. For two years a great purpose avowed by the Synod has remained unfulfilled. This has arisen from the difficulty experienced in finding laborers for this work who could be spared from the exigencies of our home field, and would command the confidence of all the brethren in so responsible an undertaking as the establishment of a Foreign Mission. To the search for such laborers the Committee have turned their careful attention during the past year.

They held correspondence with a Missionary formerly in India, now residing in the United States, and very highly recommended. But this brother while personally anxious to return to India, found himself precluded by the dealings of God with his family.

Correspondence was then opened with an esteemed Missionary Minister of the Free Church of Scotland. Two circumstances suggested his name. (1.) He is known to have felt a strong bias to Foreign Missionary work for many years, and on one occasion would have gone abroad had he not been hindered at the time by medical advice. (2.) He visited this country as a deputy from the Free Church, and possesses the high esteem of all who formed his acquaintance, or enjoyed the privilege of his ministry. The Committee tendered to this brother the offer of an appointment as a Missionary to India from this Church; and, after time for reflection and prayer, he has expressed his willingness to go for us to the work. It appeared doubtful to several members of the Committee whether sufficient power had been granted by the last Synod to conclude the arrangements; and the whole question of the appointment is now reserved for this Synod to determine. The name of the Missionary in view is at his own request not to be mentioned, until the Synod resolve that an appointment shall now be made. If the Synod so resolve, he is willing to accept their call, and go to India in their service.

Another ordained Minister, a member of this Synod, whose name if mentioned, would at once command the approval of the brethren, has also communicated to the Committee his willingness to go on this errand of salvation to those that are ready to perish. It is believed by the Committee that the two brethren in view, the one from Scotland, but no stranger to Canada, the other from Canada directly, would secure to the enterprize the immediate confidence of the Church at large, and by the blessing of God, organize and conduct a judicious and zealous Foreign Mission.

A third name, that of one of the probationers of the Church is also before the Committee; but they do not ask the Synod to contemplate more in the present year, than the appointment of two ordained Ministers to found the mission. When the foundations through God's goodness are laid, the Church may reinforce the ranks of the laborers either from this country, or from among the native Preachers and Catechists already to be found in India, in connection with the Free Church or other Missions.

The present Report differs from that presented to last Synod in this important particular. Then there were no available missionaries at the service of the Church. Now the men appear to be ready, and men suitable for the work. The time also seems favorable. The only question that remains is this:—Is the Church ready to proceed heartily with the work? And this is a question

which, not the Committee, but the present Synod must answer.

The subject of ways and means is one which the Committee have not neglected to consider. The collection made for Foreign Missions has been more liberal than that of any former year, amounting to £651 9s. 3d. Of this sum, £75 have been remitted to the Treasury of the Free Church of Scotland, at the express request of one of the contributing congregations. But there still remains in the Treasury a balance of £575, which may either be invested as a safety fund for contingent expenses, or be drawn upon to defray the expenses of the outfit and passage of the ministers and their wives.

The expectation seems to be no more than reasonable, that when a definite mission is organized, the liberality of the congregations under this Synod will be moved in a much greater degree than could be looked for when a general and comparatively indefinite object was presented for their support.

Communications have been addressed to the Moderators of the Synods of New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, informing them of the views of the Synod of Canada towards a Foreign Mission, and suggestiug that their Synods should combine with this in such an undertaking. No answer has yet been received, probably because the Synods mentioned have not yet met. But it is pleasing to know that in the Free Church of Nova Scotia a warm interest has recently been evinced in favor of a Foreign Mission.

D. FRASER, *Convener.*

REPORT OF SABBATH OBSERVANCE COMMITTEE.

The past year has been signalized by special efforts on the part both of the friends and the foes of the Sabbath. Two signal victories gained in the Parent Country should be noted with gratitude—the prevention of the opening of places of public amusement in London, and the removal of the bands from the gardens and parks. While the fact that the one measure was attempted, and the other partially and temporarily carried out, indicates that the enemies of the Sabbath will stick at nothing in order to accomplish their ends, the repeated defeats sustained by them as clearly indicate that the sentiments and sympathy of the general community were on the other side. The scene in the British Parliament, on occasion of the Walmsley motion and the division upon it, reveals a certain measure of soundness on the question in the heart of our father land. Political Gallios who care for none of these things, marking with acute eye the direction of the tide of popular opinion have not had the hardihood to breast it. Votes given in the face of their own strongly avowed private and personal views exhibit a consousness on their part, that to act otherwise would be to forfeit the favour of their constituents and to lose their seats of power. These tendencies of progress at home are fitted to stimulate and encourage us, while from the tactics pursued on both sides there we may derive important practical lessons.

Your Committee are sorry that they cannot report any material progress on the Sabbath cause throughout our Province. On the contrary they have reason to fear, with the increased facilities of communication Sabbath, desecration is proportionately on the increase.

The unsettled state of political affairs has operated seriously against the introduction of any Parliamentary measure on the subject. Other public questions have had such prominence given them and the political arena has been the scene of such constant strife that the Sabbath question has been thrown into the shade. We still hope for its introduction before the close of the present session.

At the meeting of your Committee in Hamilton last fall, certain practical measures were resolved on. In the January No. of the *Record* a short address was published respecting *simultaneous preaching* on the subject. In the February No. another address was published enjoining to a renewal of effort and suggesting certain practical steps. In the March No. a notice was published pressing on Presbyteries, Sessions and Congregations the duty of memorializing government immediately for the abolition of Sabbath labor in the public departments and on the canals, with a model memorial and directions appended. Your Committee have reason to know that a partial response has been made to these appeals. The Synod's memorials were duly forwarded signed by the Moderator and Clerk—separate memorials were also sent by your Committee. Several Presbyteries and Sessions have taken similar action. Your Committee would recommend

I. That the Synod memorialize again, if it be found necessary, and that Presbyteries, Sessions, and Congregations, which have neglected this duty be instructed to attend to it.

II. Meetings should be convened throughout the Province, that by direct oral appeals the subject in its more public and practical bearing may be pressed on the notice of the community. At such meetings petitions may be submitted and signed by the Chairman and Secretary in name of the meeting.

III. Tracts pithy and spirited: books like Edward's Sabbath Manual, Waterbury, Dwight, Agnew, and Kingsbury on the Sabbath: the epecial volume of Essays by distinguished Ministers of the leading Evangelical denominations, and the Prize Essays by working men, should be widely circulated. This might be very easily and efficiently done through our system of Colportage.

IV. The Press should be largely taken advantage of by Ministers and others to counteract the pernicious views that are afloat on the subject and to disseminate views of a sound Scriptural character. Your Committee would recommend to the Committee on the Revival of Religion to keep this in view in the proposed "Fly Sheets."

V. Members of Parliament should be dealt with on this question by their constituents. Every legitimate influence should be brought to bear upon them.

VI. Deputations might be appointed (if deemed advisable) to deal with Government and Railway Companies.

VII. Sabbath Defence Associations should be formed all over the Province, and an effort be made to secure the formation of a Provincial Sabbath Alliance.

VIII. Sessions are exhorted to deal firmly and faithfully with members who are guilty of violations of the Sabbath law, such as travelling, social visiting, and the like; and not to admit to sealing ordinances, or retain in their enjoyment, parties who are engaged in unnecessary labor on the Lord's day.

IX. Your Committee would further recommend that a list of queries similar to those sent in 1852 be again sent to Ministers and Sessions, specially bearing on the various forms of Sabbath desecration and the means used for their removal, and that the substance of the answers be embodied in next year's report.

XI. That the *third Sabbath* in *January*, as heretofore, be devoted to special simultaneous preaching on the subject.

XII. Your Committee would recommend to Ministers, Sessions, and Presbyteries in districts where there is Sabbath desecration on canals or railways, to adopt all competent measures with a view of getting a stop put to such desecration.

XIII. Your Committee in the event of any new crusade being undertaken against the Sabbath in the parent country, your Committee would recommend to the Synod, to consider the propriety of joining with the friends of the Sabbath in any competent way in withstanding it.

XIV. Your Committee would finally call to mind the recommendations to the Synod in June 1853, "that inasmuch as the cause cannot be successfully prosecuted without the Divine blessing, and union for prayer is specially needed and fitted to prove highly beneficial, in order to that blessing being secured, an *hour monthly*, say between 7 and 8 P. M. on the *last Saturday of every month* be thus set apart by all the office-bearers and members of this Church.

ROBERT F. BURNS, *Convener.*

REPORT OF THE HOME MISSION COMMITTEE OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA, FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MAY, 1856.

The work entrusted to the care and oversight of your Committee, is one of great extent and importance, and its magnitude is growing from year to year. Several settlements have taken place within the bounds of the several Presbyteries, to which more special reference will be made in course of the Report. But while these settlements have taken place, lessening at some particular points the spiritual destitution, the pressure of which we have so extensively experienced, the field calling for missionary agency is on the whole as large as ever; indeed, in consequence of the advancing settlement of the country and the opening of new mission stations, its extent has increased rather than diminished. At the same time the Committee have the pleasure of announcing to the Synod, that at the last meeting of the Home Mission Committee, pretty full provision was made for meeting the existing destitution, at least much more ample provision than on any former occasion, the demands of most of the Presbyteries having been met by the Home Mission Committee. At the meeting of the Committee in the end of October, there were only eighteen missionaries for distribution among all the Presbyteries of the Church. These were distributed as equitably as possible, but the supply was very inadequate, five being the largest number assigned to any Presbytery, while twice that number would have been a meagre enough supply. At the meeting in the end of April, the Committee on making up its list found at its disposal, *forty-six* labourers in all,—*sixteen* preachers and *thirty* students.

It is gratifying that so many labourers were available for supplying the special destitution so lamentably prevalent. We trust that by the blessing of God we shall be able henceforth to overtake the work more fully than in former years. For this supply we are indebted in part to the Churches in Scotland and Ireland, having received from the former church, four ministers and three students; and from the latter, three

ministers. A pretty constant correspondence has been kept up by the Convener of the Committee with the Rev. Mr. Bonar, and the Rev. Mr. McLure. Both of these excellent friends hold out the prospects of a larger supply of labourers than we have hitherto received. But while we gratefully acknowledge our obligations to these churches, it is right to notice that the supply has been mainly from our own College. As stated above, thirty of the missionaries are students of Knox's College, and of these eight have just completed their curriculum, and will forthwith be admitted to their public probationary trials. Of the students now employed as catechists or missionaries, some are at a comparatively early stage of their course, although none have been employed who are not regarded as suitably qualified for the important work. But the Committee believe that very soon now it will not be found necessary to press into the service any of the students except those of the most advanced class, for, while there are some advantages, there are also disadvantages affecting the students themselves, connected with their employment as missionaries at an early stage of their Theological course.

The Committee would now advert briefly to the condition of each of the Presbyteries, beginning in the East with the Presbytery of Montreal. In this Presbytery three ministers have been settled during the past year, namely Messrs. Crombie, Kemp, and Currie. There are at present three vacant Congregations, viz., Martintown and Williamstown, St. Eustache and Grand Freniere, and Laguerre. There are also three mission stations where the congregations are fully organized, viz., Lingwick, Kenyon, and Port Neuf; and four stations requiring supply but where the congregations are not as yet organized, viz., Grenville and Harrington, Finch, and Chateauguay Basin. Six missionaries are at present labouring within the bounds of this Presbytery, supplying these various stations.

2. *Presbytery of Brockville and Ottawa.*—In this Presbytery there are at present three vacant congregations, viz., Brockville, Pembroke, and Edwardsburgh. There are seven organised congregations requiring supply, and one station not yet organized. To this Presbytery six missionaries have been assigned.

3. *Presbytery of Kingston.*—In this Presbytery there are three vacant congregations, viz., Demorestville, Melrose and Roslin, and Madoc. Besides these there are two stations in the neighbourhood of Kingston, viz., Storrington and Ballinahinch. One settlement has taken place, during the year past, viz., Mr. Pearce, who succeeded Rev. R. F. Burns, as Pastor of Chalmers' Church. Three missionaries are labouring within the bounds of this Presbytery.

4. *Presbytery of Cobourg.*—In this Presbytery there has been one pastoral settlement during the year, viz., Mr. Thomson at Trenton and Murray There is at present only one mission field, viz., Percy and Alnwick, where Mr. Tait, Probationer is now labouring.

5. *Presbytery of Toronto.*—In this Presbytery there are now five charges vacant, which formerly enjoyed a stated ministry, viz., Second Congregation, Toronto,—Markham,—Whitby,—Brock and Reach,—Caledon and Erin. These are all anxious to obtain Pastors. Some of them are now taking steps for obtaining settled ministers, and some, especially the Second Congregation, Toronto, have for some time been anxiously seeking to obtain a Pastor to watch for their souls. Besides these Congregations at present vacant, there are also congregations ready for settlement at Boston and Milton,—Mono and Caledon East,- St. Vincent and Euphrasia, and we might perhaps add Nottawasaga and Sunnidale. The following stations are also important and require missionary labour, viz:—Collingwood which is fast becoming a town of importance, from its relation to the traffic of Lake Huron and the far west by the Northern Railroad,—Artemisia, Medonte, Flos and, Oro, Reesor's Corners, Markham, and Weston and Lambton. During the winter most of the places, except some of the more remote, were supplied by the Students of Knox's College. There are now labouring, within the bounds of the Presbytery, ten missionaries. No settlements have taken place in the course of the year, but several congregations are at present taking steps to call ministers.

6. *Presbytery of Hamilton.*—In this Presbytery several settlements have taken place since last Synod, viz., Mr. Burns at St. Catherines, Mr. Gillespie, at Blenheim, Mr. McLean, at East Puslinch, Mr. McIndoe, at Wellington Square and Waterdown, Mr. Middlemiss, at Elora, and Mr. Craigie, at Port Dover and Simcoe. Notwithstanding this large addition to the number of settled ministers, there are still three organized congregations destitute of a settled ministry, viz., Dunnville, Berlin and Woolwich, and Doon and New Hope, besides fifteen other stations requiring supply, at most of which there are large congregations, and many may be regarded as ripe for settlement. These stations are the following, viz:—Allansville, Walpole, Wellesley, Marybourough, Jarvis, Derby, Sullivan, West Puslinch, Mount Forest, Durham, Bentinck, Glenelg, Garafraxa, Normanby, and Grimsby. A large proportion of these stations would be self-sustaining under the charge of diligent and efficient labourers. At the meeting of the Home Mission Committee, eleven missionaries were assigned to this Presbytery.

Presbytery of London.—Within the bounds of this extensive Presbytery, there have been three settlements since last meeting of Synod, by Rev. N. Bethune at Thamesford, Rev. Mr. Ferguson at Lobo, and Rev. Mr. Gauld at Moore. One of these, the Rev. N. Bethune has since been translated, as we he have good ground to hope, to the church above, leaving a sorrowing congregation, and a bereaved partner. There are at present 4 vacant congregations, viz., Thamesford, St. Thomas, Fingal, and Plympton. Besides these, there are at least 27 congregations and stations requiring supply, seventeen of them being fully organized, viz., Tilbury, Ridgetown, Wallacetown, Chalmers' Church, Yarmouth, Dorchester, Westminister, Port Burwell, Beachville, Bosanquet, Dunwich, St. Mary's, Mitchell, Wawanosh; Huron, and Ashfield, Kincardine, and Bruce, the ten, which are not fully organized but many of them large and important, are the following: Windsor, Mersea, Wallaceburgh, Wardsville, Komoka, and South Carradoc, East Zorra, Enniskillen, Mornington, Clinton, Grey, and Morris. Nine Missionaries were assigned to this Presbytery, a member not fully adequate for overtaking the work, but still affording more ample supply than has ever been afforded before.

We have thus gone over the various Presbyteries of the Church, and from the short sketch which has been given, it will be seen, that there are at present, 56 organized congregations, and 33 stations, many of them, however, ready for organization and settlement, while there are but 16 Preachers and ten students ready for license.

Your Committee have pleasure in being able to state that, throughout the church generally deeper interest is felt in the Home Missions of the Church, than was felt and manifested at one time. In all the Presbyteries the supply of destitute congregations and stations is looked upon as a duty of primary importance. Almost every Minister gives some portion of his time to this work, and so far as we know this is not grudged by the various congregations. In the present scarcity of labourers, much might be done, and much is done by the systematic efforts of members of the several Presbyteries. Missionary meetings are held throughout most of the congregations. In some quarters these have as yet been only partially successful; but, it is believed their beneficial influence is very generally acknowledged.

Your Committee will not occupy the time of the Synod with many suggestions; but, would leave the matter in the hand of the Synod. There are, however, two or three things, to which reference may be made in a few words.

1. The Committee would put in view of the Synod, to recommend strongly to the several Presbyteries to use all diligence in looking after the new stations, organizing them as soon a possible, and ordaining Elders where it is practicable. In some cases loss has been sustained by a want of timely attention to these things. Indeed, in the larger Presbyteries, it is a question whether a general or travelling Missionary might not be advantageously employed in visiting stations, organizing, and dispensing the sealing ordinances.

2. The Committee would suggest the desirableness of the Synod soon giving its attention to the re-arrangement of the bounds of Presbyteries.

3. The Committee would suggest to the Synod, the propriety of recommending to Presbyteries to raise the allowance hitherto given to students employed as Missionaries. Hitherto the allowance has been £25, with Board, during the summer vocation. The Committee agree in thinking that £30 would be now little enough for the Students. The Committee also would suggest to the Synod to recommend to Presbyteries to transact with congregations on the one hand, and with Missionaries on the other, so as to save them from any loss, and from being placed in an awkward, and unpleasant position.

4. The Committee, adverting to the circumstance that at the meetings of committee some of the more distant Presbyteries are scarcely ever represented, would suggest that Presbyteries should consider it their duty to defray, out of their Home Mission Fund, or otherwise, the expenses of those whom they may depute to appear for them at the meeting of the Committee, so that every Presbytery may be represented.

5. The Committee recommend that, while correspondence should still be kept up with the view of obtaining Preachers from the parent churches, attention should specially be given to the seeking out of young men for our own College, which must be regarded as essentially connected with the right cultivation of our Home Mission Field. With God's blessing on this institution, and with his blessing on the labors of his servants throughout the church, may we not look for the time, when the wilderness and solitary place shall be glad, and when the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose?

W. REID, *Convener.*

COLLEGE REPORT.

In presenting their Report for the year, your Committee may be expected to advert to the change which has occurred since last meeting of Synod, by the transference of the seat of study to Elmsley House. We believe that the transaction which was gone into for the purchase of that building and the adjacent ground, has met with general approval. A departure from the noisy, and now altogether unsuitable locality in Front Street, had become necessary; and the premises recently secured, if not possessing all the adaptations of a new structure, had the advantage of providing, at once, accommodation for the lodging of Students, in combination with a retired and very healthful position. The site chosen is also most eligible by its proximity to the University College, at which so many of the Students attend for the sake of their preliminary education. The far greater number of the young men reside, as before, under one common roof. A certain proportion provide themselves with lodging elsewhere; but the advantages of such a central domestic establishment are so appreciated by the Students generally that your Committee do not hesitate to recommend such additions to be made in the building as may provide for the accommodation of a larger number of inmates; and suggestions with this view will be submitted by the Building Committee of the Synod. It must be manifest to all that the comforts of a home during their winter terms of study cannot be easily found on the more private or dispersed system, at a rate suited to the means of our young men; and it was satisfactory to the Committee to be able, though not without help from the Bursary fund, to arrange with the head of the College Boarding House, for terms of admission that may be regarded as economical in these times. That fund they drew upon, for this purpose, to the extent of one hundred pounds.

Passing from more external matters to the state of the Seminary itself and the business of the late Session, it may be mentioned that the number enrolled in all the classes amounted to fifty-six, including, Theological Students proper, and a larger proportion in the under-graduate list. A few are also included, who as yet attend only on classes at the University College, though announcing themselves prospectively as Theological Students of Knox's College.

The arrangements of the classes, and the distribution of the work of teaching, are known to many of the members of the Synod; very full information on these particulars having been given through the *Record*, so generally read by the ministers and congregations. It may be stated however, for the information of all, that in the preliminary classes superintended by Mr. Smith, the students were exercised in English Grammar, and grounded in the Latin and Greek languages and Mathematics. Professor Young conducted the third year's students in the study of Logic and Metaphysics; and the students of the fourth year, or first year of Divinity course, in the department of the evidences of Revealed Religion. The Divinity Class, in the two latter years of the six years' course, were conducted by Dr. Willis over the field of Systematic Theology. He also superintended the studies in Biblical Criticism, and Hermeneutics, and in Church History (as to the Text books, &c., several particulars in the Report being already published in the *Record* for February last, are omitted here.)

It is only necessary to advert to the great variety of duties assigned to each Professor to make manifest the necessity for some addition to the professorial staff, as soon as means shall be found for it. The existing Professors undertake for so multifarious a charge, only while no other provision is made; but the Committee continue to anticipate as highly desirable the circumscribing of the duties of each chair—a thing not more reasonable towards the Teachers in respect of their comfort, than in respect of their efficiency, or their power of concentrating their energies on their special departments.

The result of the Session, of most immediate interest to the Church, is, that eight students are reported to have finished their curriculum, and have been certified to their respective Presbyteries to be taken on the usual trials for license; and, that, in addition to these, the services of twenty students as Catechists, have been placed at the disposal of the Home Mission for the present summer.

One student, recently from Scotland, had joined the senior Theology class, with the view of completing his course, which he had been prosecuting at Edinburgh, but had to leave College, early in the Session, from indisposition. The delicate constitution of another, who, after an interruption of some years, had thought of resuming his studies at our Institution, was found not to admit of his close application to the work on which his heart was bent. With these exceptions, both Professors and Students were favoured by Providence with general good health.

Your Committee have still to renew the expression of their desire, that ministers and other friends of our Seminary would continue to interest themselves in its welfare and the extension of its usefulness. One means is by exciting pious and talented youths to devote themselves to the

service of Christ in the Gospel. Yourselves know as well as the Committee the necessities of this great country. Another is, by stimulating congregations or individuals whom God has blessed with larger worldly substance, to assist young men who are worthy of encouragement in meeting the expenses of their education. During the years of their attendance on the classes they necessarily abandon the opportunities of acquiring worldly gain, or if capable of doing something towards their support by engaging in the work of Teachers or Catechists, still such engagements seldom place them entirely beyond the need of aid from other sources. Cases occur in which, to the loss of the Church, young men, honourably desirous of maintaining themselves, either interrupt their attendance at the classes, or suffer in their health by their multifarious labours. While, therefore, aware how desirable it is to cherish the spirit of laudable independence in students as well as others, your Committee but accord in the sense of the Church in all ages, and assert the result of all experience, when they remind their fellow Christians addicted to good works, that no offering of Christian love is more called for than the proffering of aid to young men struggling with narrow circumstances, yet with honest purpose, choosing, from love to Christ and to souls, a vocation yielding no present temporal return, however rich in the prospect of spiritual returns in due season.

In this conviction your Committee have much pleasure in acknowledging the continued liberality of individuals and congregations to the Bursary fund. Some congregations have charged themselves with the entire support of one or more students, whom they may be said to have sent to the College. It may not be too much to expect that some others may be induced to follow their good example, and if they will put themselves in communication with our Treasurer, he will be happy to supply them with all information on the subject. Parties thus charging themselves with the support of a particular student from their own locality, may possibly take a livelier interest in his progress, and may be able to estimate more precisely the result of their benevolent appropriations. But whether by thus individualizing their aid, or contributing to the fund generally, we feel that in whole or in part, a considerable class of students must look for encouragement to other sources than either their own scanty means, or those of their immediate relatives; and we know few ways, in which Christians whom the Lord has prospered, can better manifest interest in the prosperity of the Church,

It now remains that we should indicate briefly the points to which the Committee would suggest that the attention of the Synod should be turned.

First, in immediate connection with what has been last mentioned, it may be well to consider if any thing definite could be effected to increase the Bursary fund, or to enable students to meet the expenses of their education without harassing anxiety. In reference to the same subject the question of increasing the allowance to those employed during summer as Catechists will no doubt be considered.

Secondly, provision being now made at University College for the preliminary education of the young men, on a plan that meets the case of our entrants more than heretofore, the time seems to have come, when it is unnecessary to embrace in the internal plan of Knox's College, arrangements for giving instruction to students in the first year of their literary course. Thus what has all along been in view, the making of our own College a purely Theological Institution, is so much nearer to being realized, and the wishes expressed at last meeting of Synod gratified.

But, though the office of a Tutor is thus superseded, yet on the supposition that some one is still required to head the boarding establishment, it has been suggested that in addition to the duties of that department, Mr. Smith, or the party undertaking that charge, might still render valuable supplementary service under the direction of the Professors' Court, in the capacity of a private Tutor to such of the students as may require his assistance, from their having enjoyed less advantage in their particular localities for making the usual preparation for College. This instruction, however, will not be understood by the students as constituting any part of the required curriculum, or as superseding attendance at same time at University College; nor as being meant by us to encourage students to neglect to take advantage of grammar schools, where provided, previous to their coming up to the College seat. The Synod will feel it right to consider on what terms the present Tutor may still be retained in these capacities in connection with our Institution.

Another subject to which we respectfully call attention, is the examination of students: First, as regards the respective shares of responsibility which should be borne by the College Committee, and by Presbyteries; secondly, as regards the proposal of a Central Board of Examiners.

In connection with this, a desire, it may be stated, is felt that the relations of the College Committee generally to the Theological Institute, should be more precisely defined.

Again, it may be necessary to pass more specific rules, defining the limits within which students should be required to act as Catechists or Missionaries, while yet in the course of their education. Especially, the demands on their services during the College Session have, it is felt, been carried to a degree injurious to their progress. Considering the larger number of preachers now available for the work of the Church, it becomes a question whether any other than the senior students should be called on for such service at all; and as to them, it seems expedient that the amount of service to be expected, or even permitted to be undertaken by them, should be distinctly understood. A rule existed in former years by which students were not expected to go out to supply churches more than six Sabbaths during one session. This has been greatly exceeded. Indeed, during last winter, some students were engaged preaching every alternate Sabbath, or still more frequently. The long journeys occasionally lost them opportunities for receiving valuable instruction at the classes; and labours in the city or its vicinity also deducted from their time and power of applying their minds to their appropriate studies. A considerable addition to their distractions in this way arises from applications being often made to them directly, which the young men are averse to decline, rather than convinced that it is their duty to comply with them. It seems essentially necessary that there should be an end of such interferences; and that, besides re-establishing some such rule as formerly existed, it should be understood that all applications for extra service by any student, in the way of supplying pulpits of Ministers, should be first submitted to their Professors, and only allowed with their approbation and consent.

The Committee anticipate on another point the ready assent of the Synod; that is, as regards the change required in the time of commencing and closing Session term. In order to accommodate our arrangements to those of University College, it has become necessary to substitute 1st October for 1st November; and by substituting 1st April for 1st May, the students will still be available for the same proportion of the year as before, for the work of Missionaries or Teachers during vacation. Of course, the present summer is an exception, the recess being shorter for this time by one month, on the supposition of our re-opening on 1st October next.

It only remains to advert again, in the close of this report, to the proposed improvements on the College premises. Plans will be laid before the Synod by the competent parties. In addition to enlarged accommodation for the students, it has been suggested that advantage might be taken of the vacant ground, now the property of the Church, for the erection of dwelling houses for the Professors. The great advance in the rate of rental on houses in Toronto, as well as on the expense of living generally, will recommend some such proposal; and the Committee doubt not that the whole question of College repairs, or buildings, will be entertained with the same spirit of liberality which has already called forth such prompt compliance with the proposal to purchase a College property, instead of continuing to depend on leased premises.

If at length, a call is made on the Church, for exertions on a larger scale in behalf of its Theological Seminary, it will at least be allowed that the parties more immediately interested forbore, from year to year, to press the claim for better accommodation than those leased premises afforded; deferring to the convenience of the Synod, and to the other objects of common interest which seemed to have a prior claim on the Church's attention. The exertions now expected have not been asked till after the means and resources of the Church have been greatly increased; it being not too much to assume that our congregations have been sharing in the general prosperity of the Province. And, finally, it is satisfactory to your Committee, that all these suggestions come before a Synod now largely composed of former pupils of the Collegiate Institute for which we are now reporting; who know its desiderata, as well as appreciate its value, and who will not fail to sustain it by their active exertions and prayers.

M. WILLIS, *Convener.*

THE SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BUXTON MISSION, PRESENTED AT THE MEETING OF SYNOD IN LONDON, JUNE 16TH, 1856.

In presenting the Sixth Annual Report, of the Buxton Mission to the Synod, we would, first of all, acknowledge with thankfulness our indebtedness to Almighty God, for the measure of success, which has attended our labours during the past year, and for the support graciously vouchsafed to us, in the midst of many trying difficulties. The year that is just passed has been one of great pecuniary embarrassment to the infant settlement, where the mission is located; this has prevented the settlers from giving that cordial support to our operations, which they otherwise would have done.

Most of them came into the place about five years ago without any means, and not having a sufficient quantity of land opened to do more than support their families; and, some who came

in later, not even that, they have not been able to contribute much, still they have done something; a beginning has been made to support the ordinances of religion, and to educate their children. The settlement at Buxton in temporal matters, has been self-supporting since its beginning; in the early part of last year, they determened to do something in spiritual matters.—It was resolved that the Church should contribute to all the schemes of the Synod, besides taking up a collection every Sabbath; also, that the scholars attending the missionary schools, should pay a small sum towards the support of the teachers. The rate was graduated according to the branches taught, and was somewhat higher than what is charged in the Government Schools; but one half less than what is required in Grammar Schools. It was also mentioned that those who could pay, be taught free, so that all the children might have the benefit of a good school; we wished to give an opportunity to such as were able and willing to pay for the education of their children, to do so.

The result has been most gratifying, notwithstanding the pressure felt by the settlers during the past year. Of those families who have sent to both schools, more than one-half have paid something, one-fith have paid the whole rate bill charged, and only twenty-two have paid nothing. The Synodical and Sabbath-day collections, have been regularly taken up in the Church. The whole amount raised, from both church and schools, is about *seventy pounds.*

In consequence of charging a small rate bill, the school has not been so much crowded during the last year, as it was during the two proceeding years. A number of the children having gone to two district schools, on the North and West side of the settlement. There are two schools at the Mission, a male and female. The female school was established last year, for the purpose of teaching the girls plain sewing, and those who might be willing to pay for it, the higher branches of a female education. In this department, we hope soon, to have some well trained female teachers. In the male school besides the common branches of an English education, Latin, Greek, and Mathematics are taught. In both, the Shorter Catechism is used, and the Bible is taught as a religious exercise. One of the difficulties, we have had to contend with, in this branch of the missionary operations, is the frequent change of teachers. It is only five years since the schools have been opened, yet the teachers have been changed ten times, and although all the teachers, with one or two exceptions have been good, yet the frequent change has had a paralyzing effect on the efficiency of the schools. Pupils have not made the same progress, that they otherwise would have done. The teachers who have been hitherto employed, have mostly been *students*, who were under the necessity of leaving every six months, for the purpose of attending classes in the College. It would add much to the efficiency of this branch of our missionary operations, to have permanent teachers. We trust that, ere *long*, we shall be able to obtain them. The number enrolled, in both schools, during the past year, has been *one hundred and thirty*, and the average attendance *fifty-eight*. There are two classes,—one in Latin and the other in Greek; those reading Greek will be ready to enter College next November. The Sabbath-school has been well attended during the past year, there are at present *one hundred and twelve* on the roll, and the average attendance is *fifty-two*. We still feel the want of permanent teachers in this department, although we are beginning to supply the deficiency in some measures by the aid of scholars who have received instruction in the Sabbath-school. The Juvenile Missionary Society, organized twelve months ago, by the scholars, has been regularly kept up. At the Anniversary in February last, on opening the missionary box, it was found to contain *eighteen dollars*, which was voted by the scholars to the *Calabar* Mission, on the Coast of *Africa*. The Sabbath-school, and Congregational libraries have received, each a valuable donation of books from friends in Glasgow, through the personal exertions of Dr. and Mrs. Willis, *one hundred* volumes have been added to the Sabbath School, and *seventy-five* to the Congregational Library. The attendance at Church is about the same as last year, varying from *one hundrded and fifty* to *two hundred* according to the state of the road and weather. We have had two communion seasons since our last report—one in July, and one in March. On these occations, six members were added, two on certificates, and four by examination. The number on the communion roll is *fifty*. One of these is a young woman, who had been educated at the Mission School, and for many years was a pupil at the sabbath school. She was the first, that has been recived unto the Church from the Mission Shool. Her knowledge of the scriptures was clear, and she gave satisfactory evidence of her having experienced a saving change This is only the first fruits, but we trust it will followed by an abundant harvest. The Mission is only in its infant state, still it is an object of peculiar interest, and well calculated to call forth the good wishes of our own Church, and of al who feel an interest in the social and moral improvement of a long neglected and deeply in-

jured race. It is only the day of small things, but we have good reason to thank God and take courage, for the measure of success, which has already attended our efforts. The school connected with the mission is progressing; and we trust the voice of its pupils, will one day be heard to advantage, from one end of the Province to the other. Nay, the time we hope may not be far distant, when they will vie with other, and more highly favoured lands, in carrying the lamp of eternal truth, and planting the cross on the remotest shores of Africa. Although I do not pretend to lift the veil, which hides futurity from the eye of mortals, yet I do most solemnly believe that, when Ethiopia stretches forth her hands to God, her own sons will be the honoured instruments, in the hands of God in carrying religion and civilization to their benighted countrymen. Encouraged by the past, we would look for greater triumphs in future, but above all we would look for the *Divine blessing*, without which a solemn mockery awaits all our efforts.

WM. KING.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON THE STATE OF RELIGION.

The Committee on the State of Religion regret to report, that they have no statements of much interest to lay before the Synod. They have laboured under the disadvantage which indeed impedes the action of almost all the Committees appointed by the Synod—the difficulty of obtaining a meeting of the members, who are scattered over all the Presbyteries of the Church.

In obedience to the instructions of the Synod the Conveners prepared a pastoral address which was duly published in the *Record*, with the late Moderator's signature; calling the attention of the Church to the chief points raised in report of last year—and generally to the whole subject of the State of Religion within our borders.

The Conveners have not thought it expedient to repeat so soon the queries sent to Ministers, and reported on to the Synod of 1855—and they have felt it the less necessary to prosecute their inquiries, as they have had reason to believe that some of the Presbyteries have undertaken an inspection of the flocks under their care, which must involve an examination into the state of religion—its progress or decline.

The Committee are of opinion, that in ordinary circumstances it will be found best to commit this subject to the conscientious and responsible attention of the Presbyteries of the Church.

They would now humbly recommend.

1st. That the Presbyteries of the Church be encouraged to acquaint themselves by visitations, by preaching deputations, and in all other competent ways with the state of religion within their respective bounds, and endeavour after its revival.

2nd That this Committee on the State of Religion shall have a ministerial member in each Presbytery—whose duty it shall be to collect and prepare information regarding the state of religion within the bounds, which information shall be furnished annually through this Committee to the Synod.

3rd. That, inasmuch as the state of vital religion in the hearts of the Ministers and other Office-bearers of the Church is found ever to affect and regulate its condition among the people at large, the Synod issue a recommendation, that on the first meeting of every Church Court, whether Deacon's Court, Session, or Presbytery—after the 1st of October, the members observe a special season of brotherly conference, that they may unite in acknowledgment of sin, and in supplications for the outpouring of the Holy Ghost—and may, with the divine help, impart to one another some spiritual gift—and may have their brotherly love increased, and their hearts mutually refreshed and stimulated to a higher christian consecration than before.

4th. That a series of papers on topics of practical religion be prepared under the care of this Committee—and widely circulated in the form of a monthly fly-sheet, or in such other form as to the Synod may see fit.

D. FRASER.

REPORT OF UNION COMMITTEE.

The Committee on Union beg to report to the Synod that they met with the Union Committee of the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church within the McNab Street Church, Hamilton, on the fourth and fifth days of the current month; and that they were engaged during a considerable portion of these two days in conference with their United Presbyterian brethren, on various matters, and especially on the points in regard to which conflicting views were believed to be held by their respective Churches.

At both meetings there were present a pretty full attendance of the members of the two Committees; the first sederunt being composed on the side of the United Presbyterian Church of Dr. Taylor, Messrs. Jennings, Ormiston, Thornton, Skinner, Kennedy, and Proudfoot, Ministers; and on the party of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, of Messrs. Lowry, Inglis, Ross, McLaren, Laing, and Ure, Ministers, and William Heron, Elder. One of the gentlemen above mentioned, named Mr. Ormiston, was obliged from circumstances, to be absent from the second sederunt;

but, with this exception the members named, continued their attendance until the close of the proceedings.

A considerable part of the time occupied at both sittings, was spent in devotional exercises; it being felt by members of both Committees that much earnest and united prayer was specially in place, in connection with their endeavors to discharge the duty devolved upon them by their respective Synods.

The collection at the first sitting turned upon a variety of topics, such as the state of feeling on the subject of union among the congregations of of the two bodies, and the grand leading doctrines of the gospel, which they profess to hold as common. At the second meeting the question relating to the Civil Magistrate, formed the special subject of consideration; and after a protracted, though still somewhat general comparison of views upon this point—the Committee terminated their proceedings by the adoption of the following motion:—

"That having had lengthened conferences together, in the conducting of which the Committees have reason to believe that they have enjoyed much of the presence of the great Head of the Church, they were gratified to find, that, apart from the question pertaining to the power, obligation, and duties of the Civil Magistrate, they are perfectly at one, on all the great doctrines laid down in the Westminster Confession of Faith. And further, that on the special question above referred to, and the points involved in, or connected with it, such as the exclusive Headship of Christ over his Church, individual liberty of conscience in religious matters, and the obligation of all men, in all relations of life, to be governed by the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, there was such a measure of harmony of sentiment manifested as to warrant the hope of its being found practicable to frame some declaration on these points, which might be regarded as mutually satisfactory, and calculated to prepare the way for a union of the two bodies:—It was, therefore agreed to ask their respective Synods to re-appoint a Committee, to take additional steps to advance the union of Churches, holding so many great principles in common; and, especially to propose a declaration, which might afterwards be used as a basis of union, in which the exclusive Headship of Christ over his Church, together with the freedom of conscience on the one hand, and the duty of all men to be governed in all their private and public relations, by the authority of Christ in his word, on the other, may be fully maintained."

All of which is respectfully submitted.

ROBERT URE, *Convener*.

REPORT ON WIDOWS' FUND, FOR YEAR ENDING 31st MAY, 1856.

The Committee beg leave to submit the following statements of the receipts and expenditure of the Widows' fund for the past year.

RECEIPTS.

	£.	s.	d.
1 Congregational collections	359	1	5½
2 Rates paid by Ministers	171	10	0
3 Donations &c	26	10	0
Interest	261	7	9
Principal invested, repaid	95	1	0
Balance at beginning of year	239	4	6
Total for year	£1152	9	8½

EXPENDITURE.

1 On account of annuities	£ 204	8	9
2 Proportion of agent's salary	50	0	0
3 Proportion of Office Rent, Postage, Printing, uncurrent notes received, discount on cheques, &c	15	6	8
4 Put out at interest, 9 per cent.	500	0	0
5 Balance in hand	382	14	3½
	£1152	9	8½
The whole amount invested is	4463	16	0
Balance in hand	382	14	3½
	£4846	10	3½

In carrying out the resolution of last Synod, to submit the scheme to an Actuary, queries were addressed to all the Ministers contributing to the fund, not long after the meeting of Synod. It is to be regretted that returns were not made more promptly to these queries, it being pretty late this spring before all the returns were received. Of course, until all the statistics were received, it was impossible to submit the scheme to the opinion of any Actuary. All the returns having at last been received, a meeting of the Committee was held at Hamilton, when it was resolved to submit the scheme to Hugh C. Baker, Esq., of the Canada Insurance Company. A statement from him, with reference to the fund has been received, an extract from which statement is as follows.

HAMILTON, *June* 10, 1856.

MY DEAR SIR,—

The questions submitted to me by you in reference to the Widows' Fund Scheme of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, have had my attention so far as to enable me to reply generally, and probably with as much accuracy as may serve the present purpose.

1st. You ask as to the present position of the Fund, will it justify you in continuing the present rate of annuity to future claimants?

Your memorandum represents 6 claimants receiving £30 a-year each, irrespective of the sums allowed for children under 14—at their respective ages a capital sum of £2107 is thus already pledged (this being the tabular value of the Annuities) deducting this from your accumulated fund, the sum of £2,353 remains, the income from which is..... £141 0 0

Your revenue from 93 Ministers at £2 each	186	0	0
Do. Congregational Collections.....	325	0	0
	652	0	0
Deduct Expenses of Management &c.....	62	10	0
Leaving...	589	10	0

which represents your available income to meet the constantly accruing liabilities from 93 Ministers. of whom 67 are now married.

My only guide by which to estimate the probable number of claims is the experience of the scheme in the Established Church of Scotland which I have before referred to, this would lead us to expect one year with another 2 widows, and, taking the average of the 6 now on the fund in regard to age, £715 13s. 4d. yearly additional charge; showing that the fund is not quite sufficient to meet the widows, annuity, while no provision is made for the children's allowance.

There are, however, circumstances which in judgment may justify a continuance of your present scale; the ages of your Ministers are certainly of a less average than in the scheme. I mention, inducing an expectation of a diminished mortality in the earlier years, and, I presume your Congregational collections may be expected to increase. On the other hand, the ages of your Ministers' wives are also less, while as large a proportion as nearly one-fourth of the whole, are more than 10 years junior to their husbands, thus creating an excess of liability, by the expectation of a lengthened survivorship.

I have not attempted any valuation of the sums allowed for children, the gross charge on this account, will not be very important as it ceases at fourteen, and it would be a very tedious question to value or investigate.

1. You ask would it be safe to give up the annual collection in congregations!

The proceeding remarks will show that to do so would at once destroy the scheme, as these form one-half of the current future income.

3. Would an increase in the rates, payable by Ministers to £3 or £4 be very desirable or important?

A moderate increase of income, from whatever source, would of course tend to render the scheme itself so far, and more reliable in the future, but knowing how small the incomes of the Clergy of this Province generally are, I would rather suggest the propriety of urging greater zeal on the part of the congregations.

I am, yours faithfully,

HUGH C. BAKER.

During the year twelve new Ministers have become contributors, there are still a few of the Ministers in the various Presbyteries, who do notcontribute. But the number is small, and is becoming less every year. It is to be regretted, that any should not see it to be a duty to connect themselves with this fund now, it is to be hoped, on a permanent basis.

During the past year, one additional claim has come on the fund, viz., Mrs. Bethune, the widow of the Rev. N. Bethune, for a short time Minister at Thamesford. Mrs. Bethune has one child.

The Commitee grateful for the prosperity which has hitherto attended this benevolent scheme, would urge on the Synod the propriety of seeking to keep up the annual collections, and endeavoring to draw forth the interest and liberality of such congregations, as have never yet done justice to this scheme. There are not a few in this position. And it is but fair, that the burden should be divided, and borne by all according to their ability.

The collection has been pretty generally attended to; but, still there are a good many congregations for the various Presbyteries, from which no collection has yet been received. The Committee recommend that the Synod should enjoin such congregations yet to make, and remit a collection, so that there may be no defaulting congregations.

In name of Committee.

W. REID, *Sec. and Treasurer.*

ABSTRACT

of the Receipts and Expenditures for the various Schemes of the Church.—per statement submitted at late meeting of the Synod by the General Agent for the Schemes.

COLLEGE FUND.

Total amount of Receipts as per statement.....	£1176	6	2

EXPENDITURE.

Paid to Dr. Willis.....	382	11	10
Do. Professor Young up to 1st April	299	10	8
Do. Mr. Smith	100	0	0
Do. Sundry accounts.....	10	12	6
Rent, Insurance, Taxes, and Interests &c	327	0	7
Balance due Mr. Scarth...	7	0	0
Salary to Mr. Whyte, Librarian	25	0	0
Printing	1	11	3
Proportion of salary to Agent	50	0	0
Office rent and expenses....	13	6	9
	£1216	13	7
Balance due Treasurer...	40	7	5

BUXTON MISSION AND SYNOD FUND.

Total amount received as per Statement	£406	16	6

EXPENDITURE.

Paid to Rev. W. King.....	159	9	0
Mr. Wilson, Teacher..	100	0	0
Miss Tobias, Teacher...	20	0	0
Paid for drafts.....	0	12	6
Printing during session in Montreal.....	4	3	6
Reporting, &c., *Herald* office.....	15	0	0
Printing Synod's Minutes	26	1	3
Sundry payments in Montreal.....	3	17	6
Proportion of salary to Agent	100	0	0
Office rent, expenses, postage	13	6	9
	£442	1	6
Balance due Treasurer	35	5	0

ECCLESIASTICAL AND MISSIONARY RECORD.

Total of Receipts for year.....	£510	13	4

EXPENDITURE.

Printing.....	367	10	0
Sundry expenses	21	5	0
Proportion of Agent's Salary...	100	0	0
—— Office Rent and expenses.....	13	6	9
	£502	1	9
Balance on hand.....	8	11	7

WIDOWS' FUND.

Total receipts as per statement	1152	9	8½

EXPENDITURE.

Paid annuities.....	204	8	9
Printing, &c	1	19	11
Proportion of Agent's salary	50	0	0
Do Office rent, postage, Stationery &c.....	13	6	9
Put out on interest.....	500	0	0
	£769	15	5
Balance	382	14	3½
Total amount of the Fund is now.....	4846	10	3½

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Amount received as per statement.....	£507	2	2
Remitted to John Redpath, Esq	503	2	2½
Cash designed for Colonial Scheme.....	4	0	0
	£507	2	2

FRENCH CANADIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

Amount received as per statement.....	£360	19	6
Remitted to Montreal.....	339	13	11½
Balance on hand.....	£21	5	6½

BUILDING FUND—KNOX'S COLLEGE.

RECEIPTS.

Cobourg, per A. Fraser, Esq...	£50	0	0
McNab Street Church, Hamilton	50	0	0
Isaac Buchanan, Esq., Hamilton	100	0	0
John Fisher, Esq., Hamilton....	250	0	0
Archibald Kerr, Esq	100	0	0
Per R. Hartstone, Esq. Baltimore	26	5	0
Quebec, per Rev. W. Clark.....	99	10	0
London, per Rev. John Scott..	100	0	0
Montreal, Cote Street, (including donation of A. Gillespie, Esq.)	200	0	0
Miss Anderson, Edinburgh.....	24	6	8
Dundas, per T.H. McKenzie Esq	50	0	0
Hon. R. Spence	10	0	0
Subscriptions in Toronto per Rev. Dr. Burns.....	238	15	0
Galt	100	0	0

BUILDING FUND.—*Continued.*

Rev. W. J. McKenzie, Baltimore	5	0	0
W. Ross & Co. per Rev. Dr. Burns	7	10	0
Red River	41	5	3
North Easthope	28	0	0
Sundries per Deputation of Presbytery of London	38	15	0
Sundry subscriptions	1	5	0
	£1520	11	11

EXPENDITURE

Paid first instalment	£1000	0	0
W. Pim as per account	312	18	8
Sundry accounts & charges	41	10	6½
Travelling Expenses, Postages, Telegraphs, &c.	7	13	4
	£1362	2	6½
Balance	158	9	4

COMMITTEES APPOINTED BY THE SYNOD.

The names of the members of the various Committees have been in general mentioned in the Minutes. The following were omitted :—

COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Messrs. Gregg, Nesbit, Laing, Chambers and Burns, ministers,—and Dr. Holden, J. Court, and Alexander Fraser, elders: Mr. Gregg, Convener.

COMMITTEE ON WIDOWS' FUND.

Dr. Burns, Prof. Young, Messrs. Smellie, Scott, Irvine, D. Fraser, Burns, Inglis, Dr. Boyd, ministers: and Messrs. Fisher, Osborne, Buchanan, Walker, McLellan, Elmslie, Davidson, Blain, Ferrier, McMurrich, Shaw, Spreull, Morgan, C. S. Patterson, Hay, Redpath, D Davidson, Court, Gibb, D. Dickson, Hon. J. McDonald: J. Fisher, Esq., Hamilton, Convener.

COMMITTEE ON SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

Messrs. Burns, Gordon, Lowry, Reid, Gregg, Irvine, and Inglis, Drs. Burns and Willis, ministers,—and Messrs. Stewart, Redpath, Robertson, and McMurrich Elders: Mr. Burns, Convener.

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